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the 1990s, the number of people in the UK who are aged 65 and over has increased from 10.5 million to 13.5 million, and the number of people aged 75 and over has increased from 4.5 million to 6.5 million (Office for National Statistics 2000).

There is a growing awareness of the need to address the needs of older people, and the UK Government has set out a strategy for the 21st century (Department of Health 1999). The strategy is based on the following principles: (1) to improve the health and quality of life of older people; (2) to ensure that older people are able to live independently; (3) to ensure that older people are able to participate in society; and (4) to ensure that older people are able to live in their own homes.

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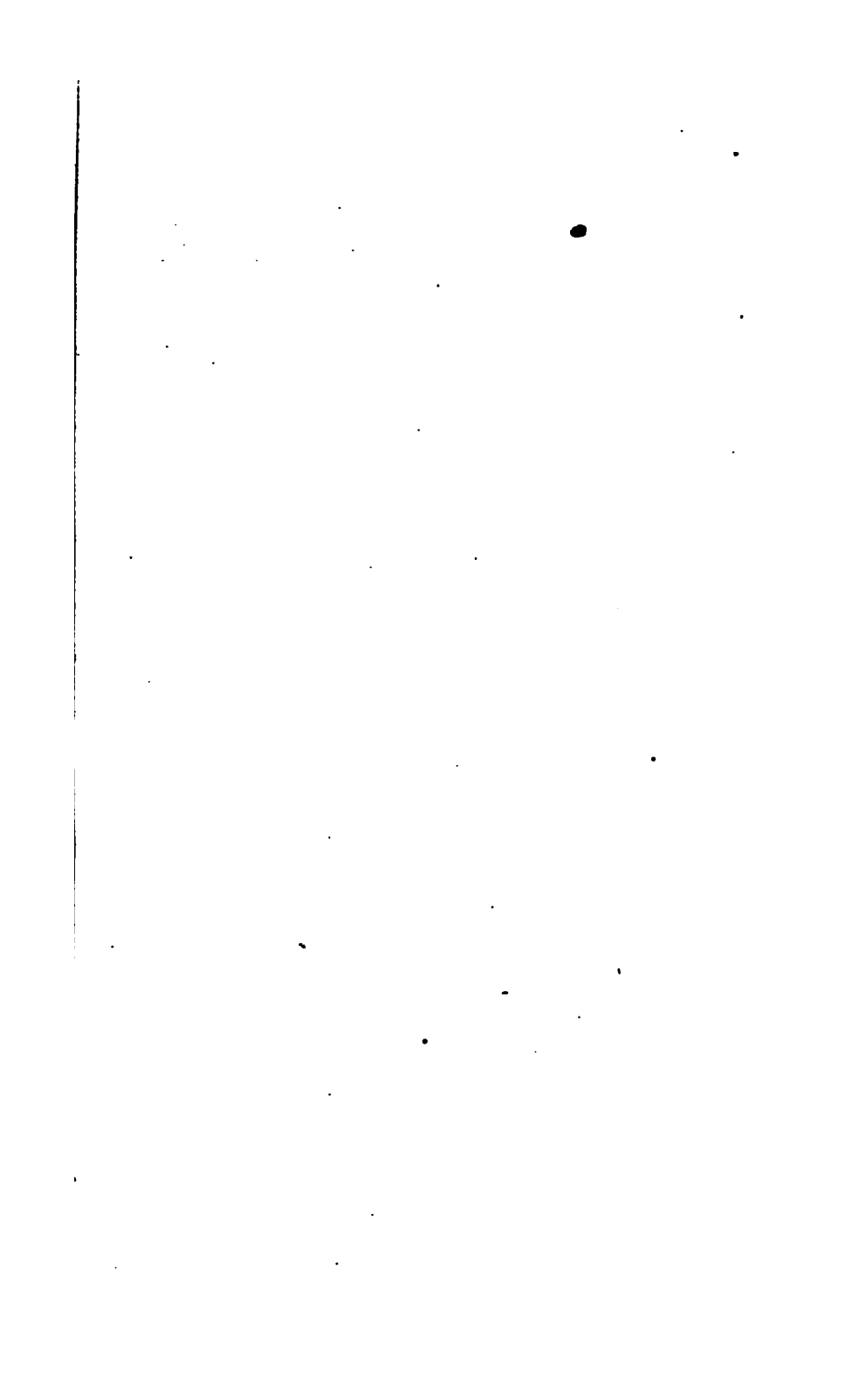
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A COLLECTION
OF
REMARKABLE CHARITIES.

BY H. EDWARDS.



A COLLECTION
OF
REMARKABLE CHARITIES.

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A
COLLECTION
OF
OLD ENGLISH CUSTOMS,

AND
Curious Bequests and Charities,

EXTRACTED FROM THE
REPORTS MADE BY THE COMMISSIONERS FOR
ENQUIRING INTO CHARITIES IN
ENGLAND AND WALES.

BY H. EDWARDS.

LONDON:
JOHN BOWYER NICHOLS AND SON,
25, PARLIAMENT STREET.

1842.

355.



LONDON:

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ADVERTISEMENT.

THE Compiler of this little Volume flatters himself that his **COLLECTION OF REMARKABLE CHARITIES** will be found to combine instruction with amusement:—the sources whence it is derived are of the most authentic kind, the Reports on Charities published by authority of Parliament; and he begs to offer it as a specimen of the information to be derived from that voluminous and highly valuable collection of public documents.

HOXTON.

Nov. 1, 1842.



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ERRATUM.

Page 79, line 13, *for* "sleep," *read* "sweep."

A COLLECTION
OF
REMARKABLE CHARITIES.

THE FLITCH OF BACON TO MARRIED COUPLES.
Little Dunmow, Essex.

THE Commissioners, in alluding to this custom, observe, "we think that if any such practice as the one referred to in the local histories, could be maintained as a good custom in law, (which we are not disposed to admit,) there can be no doubt that it is a manorial one, and, if void as such a custom, could not be established as a charitable endowment. We were informed, however, that no claim had been allowed by the Lord of the Manor since the year 1763."—*Report on Charities, vol. XXIX. p. 186.**

* The references at the end of each article denote the volume and page of the Report from which the extract is made.

CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES.

Bexley, Kent.

Mrs. Mary Mason, by will, 24th October 1811, bequeathed the residue of her property to be invested in the names of her executors, and the interest to be applied as follows:—one third thereof, in giving to the poor of this parish a comfortable dinner of beef and bread on Christmas eve; another third to be distributed at the same time in coals, to such poor families as should stand in need thereof; and the remaining third to be divided on Midsummer day, among such poor and deserving persons, resident and settled or born in the said parish, as should have brought up the greatest number of children without parochial relief; the appointment and distribution to be under the direction of Isaac Espinasse, esq. of Hextable House, and his heirs.

The property belonging to this charity consists of £1,100, part of a sum of £2,000 consols, and the dividends are received and expended by James Espinasse, esq. one of the executors of the above-named Isaac Espinasse, who was the survivor.—XXX. p. 443.

Bridgnorth Almshouses, Shropshire.

William Taylor, by will, 6th February 1735, directed that Elizabeth Leigh, then owner, and the persons who subsequently should be owners

of his two freehold houses, &c. situate in High Street, in the parish of St. Leonard, should yearly, for ever, on the 26th December, give and provide a good and wholesome dinner for the poor persons, almshouse women, inhabiting the almshouse belonging to the parish of St. Leonard, in such manner as of late years had been provided for them on that day by the testator and his late brother; and they to be so entertained in the most convenient part of the house that fronted the street; and upon every default, his will was, and he ordered, the sum of £10 to be paid to, and equally divided amongst, such poor persons, and the same to be chargeable upon the said houses, &c.

The premises subject to this annual charge were in 1822 the property of Mr. Francis Walker, who then paid annually at Christmas 13½*d.* to each of the poor women, as a commutation for their dinner. To this sum appears to have been formerly added two quarts of strong beer for each, but the beer was discontinued about twenty years ago, and nothing but the money has been since given, with which the poor women declare themselves satisfied. The Commissioners, however, doubted whether so small a sum could be then considered as a fair compliance with the directions of the testator, who, from the season that he had selected, and the large penalty that he had ap-

pointed, seemed to have intended a festive entertainment of a more costly kind.—IV. p. 236.

Burnham, Buckinghamshire.

By the will of John Popple, dated 12th March 1830, £4 yearly is to be paid unto the vicar, churchwardens and overseers of the poor of this parish, to provide for the poor people of Burnham, who should be residing in the poor-house thereof, a dinner, with a proper quantity of good ale, and likewise with tobacco and snuff, on Christmas day in every year for ever.—XXV. p. 47.

Exeter, St. Mary Major.

It appears, from a statement of charities in an old book, that John Martyn, by will, 28th November 1729, gave to the churchwardens and overseers of the poor of this parish twenty pounds, to be put out at interest, and the profits thereof to be laid out every Christmas eve in twenty pieces of beef, to be distributed to twenty poor people of the parish, such as had no relief, on that day for ever.—VIII. p. 155.

PLUM PUDDING FOR CHRISTMAS.

Forebridge, Staffordshire.

There is an ancient payment made by the chamberlain of the corporation of Stafford, of an annual sum of money, generally six shillings, at

Christmas, for the purchasing of plums to be distributed among the inhabitants of certain old houses in the liberty of Forebridge.

The Commissioners could not satisfactorily learn what was the origin of this payment, but it is ascribed by general reputation to the bounty of some individual, who heard from some poor children a complaint on Christmas day, that they had no plums for a pudding; and it is reported, that he counted the houses then in the place, and made provision for the supply of a pound of plums for each house. The money received is laid out in plums, which are divided into equal quantities, and made up into parcels, one for each of the houses, fifteen or sixteen in number, entitled by the established usage to receive a portion, without reference to the circumstances of the inhabitants.

It appears that several years ago the payment was discontinued, but, on application from the late Mr. Clarke of Forebridge, it was resumed by an order of the Corporation, and from that time the money has been paid to Mr. Clarke during his life, and since to his son, to whom the occupiers of the privileged houses apply on Christmas day, and receive their plums.—XI. p. 521.

MINCE PIE AT CHRISTMAS.

Piddle Hinton, Dorsetshire.

There is an ancient custom for the rector to give away, on old Christmas day, annually, a pound of bread, a pint of ale, and a mince pie, to every poor person in the parish. This distribution is regularly made by the rector, to upwards of three hundred persons.—XXIX. p. 108.

WELCOMING CHRISTMAS.

Ruardean, Gloucestershire.

It appears by the benefaction table in the church, that “the Reverend Mr. Anthony Sterry, vicar of Lidney, gave by deed, in the 40th year of Queen Elizabeth, 5*s.* per annum, payable out of an estate called the Glasp, in this parish, for ringing a peal on Christmas eve, about midnight for two hours, in commemoration of the Nativity.”

The Commissioners report, that the 5*s.* is received out of the estate charged, and applied as directed.—XIX. p. 105.

FISH FOR THE POOR IN LENT.

Clavering, Essex.

John Thake, by will, dated 13th June, 1537, gave to Robert Cockerell and his heirs, his house and lands called Valence, upon condition that

they should for ever, yearly, on Friday, the first week in Lent, give to poor people of Clavering, one barrel of white herrings and a cade of red herrings, (a cade is about half a barrel), always to be given by the oversight of the churchwardens and the tenants and occupiers of the lordship and parsonage of Clavering.

The owner of the farm called Valence, regularly sends to the house of the parish clerk, in Lent, a barrel of red herrings and a barrel of white, which are distributed in the church by the parish clerk and sexton, four to each married couple, two to each widow and widower, and one to each child.—XXXII. part I. p. 822.

Dronfield, Derbyshire.

It is stated on a tablet in Dronfield church, that Richard Stevenson, in 1577, left half a hundred of herrings, and as much bread as could be made of one strike of good wheat, to be distributed to the poor of the parish on every Friday in Lent for ever, and thirty pence to be given to thirty of the most needy poor in the said parish on Good Friday for ever.

The tenant of the Mill Farm, in Unstone Quarter, provides and sends to the vestry at Dronfield fifty herrings, and as much bread as can be made of one strike of wheat (for the making of which he pays), on each of the seven

Fridays in Lent; and the same are disposed of in rotation, among the poor of the several divisions of the parish, as are also the thirty pence.—XVIII. p. 204.

Duxfords, Cambridgeshire.

James Bedell, by will, dated 3rd January 1574, charged two copyhold tenements with the payment of a barrel of white herrings, and two cades of red herrings, to be distributed yearly unto the poverty of both the Duxfords, by the oversight of the churchwardens, on different days in Lent. £3. are now received in respect of this gift, of which 15*s.* are paid by the occupier of a farm, lately the property of the Reverend James Hitch, 30*s.* from an estate belonging to the late Lord Farnborough, and the remaining 15*s.* from a copyhold in the occupation of John Knott, senior.

These payments are made to William Thurnell, esq. a principal inhabitant of the parish, and are expended by him in the purchase of red herrings, which are annually distributed in November amongst the poor of the parish indiscriminately.—XXXI. p. 200.

BREAD AND HERRINGS FOR THE POOR IN LENT, AND
KID GLOVES TO THE MINISTER.*Farnham Royal, Buckinghamshire.*

In 1664, David Salter gave 17*s.* per annum for ever, to be laid out in the relief of the parish clerk, one other poor man, and four poor women, of Farnham, viz. for the buying six loaves of bread of the value of two pence each, and twelve pennyworth of white watered herrings, to be brought into the parish church of Farnham Royal, on every Sunday morning in Lent; and on every Easter day morning yearly, a sixpenny loaf a-piece; those to be equally divided between the poor aforesaid; and two shillings to be laid out for the buying of a pair of kid gloves, to be given yearly, on the first Sunday in Lent, to the parson of the parish for the time being.

A farm at Thredding Green is subject to this payment.—XXV. p. 63.

RED AND WHITE HERRINGS IN LENT.

Felsted, Essex.

The churchwardens distribute, as the gift of Lord Rich, seven barrels of white herrings and three barrels and a half of red, on Ash Wednesday, and the six following Sundays, to ninety-two poor householders of the parish, selected by the

churchwardens, in shares of eight white herrings and four red a-piece. A list is kept of the persons receiving this donation, and they continue to receive it during their lives, unless they misconduct themselves, or enter the workhouse.—XXXII. part I. p. 623.

CUTTINGS OF FISH.

London, Fishmongers Company.

Robert Harding, by will, 20th November 1568, gave to the Company of Fishmongers, an annuity of £3 6s. 8d., issuing out of his lands and tenements in Pudding Lane; and Simon Harding, his son, by deed, 7th September 1576, confirmed the same; to hold the said annuity to the wardens and commonalty and their successors, to the intent that they should pay in the Lent season £3, that is, in New Fish Street 30s. and in Old Fish Street 30s. to the use of the poor inhabitants and artificers, compelled by necessity to repair thither, to buy the cuttings of fish and refuse of fish; the residue to remain to the wardens for their labours in this behalf.

There being no poor persons of the description mentioned in the deed, the annuity has been added to the fund distributed to the half-yearly poor at Christmas.—XII. p. 109.

BREAD, HERRINGS AND BLANKETS.

Margate, Kent.

The great tithes of Salmstone Grange, in the parish of St. John, Margate, have been demised from time to time for a very long period, subject to certain charitable payments.

The property is now held under a lease granted to Messrs. Finnis and Smithet by the Earl of Guildford, who is lessee under the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the lease contains a covenant to the following effect: viz. That the lessee should yearly, in the first week in Lent, distribute to each of twenty-four of the poor inhabitants of the Isle of Thanet, viz. six of each of the parishes of Minster, Margate, St. Laurence, and St. Peter, nine loaves of bread and eighteen herrings, and the like in the middle of Lent, as it had been theretofore accustomed; and should yearly deliver to twelve poor inhabitants, viz. three of each of the aforesaid parishes, two ells of blanket; and should yearly, every Monday and Friday in every week, from the Invention of the Holy Cross (3rd May New Style), to the feast of St. John the Baptist (24th June New Style), give to every poor man and every poor woman coming to Salmstone aforesaid, "one dish of peas."

The lessees of Salmstone Grange have pro-

vided annually fifty-six pounds weight of dough, which are made into thirty-six loaves, nine of which are given to six poor inhabitants of each of the several parishes above named, in the first week in Lent, and the like quantity of bread at Mid-lent, and to each person at each distribution, 6*d.* in money instead of the herrings.

They have also given annually, to each of twelve persons of the four parishes, two ells of blanketing. It does not appear that the peas have been distributed for many years, which is thus accounted for; the term "dish" being indefinite, so small a pittance was formerly given, that the poor did not think it worth their while to make application for them.—XXX. p. 554.

HERRINGS AND FAGGOTS.

Newmarket, St. Mary's in Suffolk, and All Saints' in Cambridgeshire.

It is stated in the benefaction table in St. Mary's parish, that John Archer gave to the poor of that parish a cade of red herrings the first Sunday in Lent, and sixty-two band faggots the first working day after Christmas, payable out of the Maidenhead Inn.

In satisfaction of this donation, the proprietor of the inn, now called the Greyhound, provides

30s. worth of bread, which is distributed at the house on Plough Monday by the Churchwardens and Overseers.—XXII. p. 175.

FISH FOR THE POOR IN LENT.

Tottenham, Middlesex.

It is stated in Lord Coleraine's history of this parish, that William Dalby, Fishmonger of London, who died in 1594, gave certain barrels of herrings to be distributed in the beginning of Lent to the poorer sort of Tottenham; that this gift was valued at £10. per annum, as he (Lord C.) had seen in an old tablet hung up in the vestry, but that it was afterwards settled by the parish at 50s. per annum, when Sir Edward Barkham, who had most of Dalby's land in Tottenham, had also some tenements near Cheapside, which were Dalby's, and engaged to pay this legacy of 50s. a year.

These houses were burnt down in the fire of London, and an abatement was directed to be made in consequence thereof by the direction of the Judges of the Court of Judicature, out of the rent charge of 50s. and it was thereby reduced to 34s. 8d. The sum of £2. 2s. is now received by the churchwardens in respect of this gift from a Mr. John Smith of No. 151, Cheapside.—XIV. p. 168.

VEAL PIES OR APPLE PIES.

Ducklington, Oxfordshire.

The Rector of this parish for the time being, as long as can be remembered, has paid £10 per annum. This was formerly given away in Ducklington Church on Easter day amongst the parishioners, in veal pies or apple pies. Of late years it has been given in bread. All the parishioners of Ducklington and Hardwick who apply, whether rich or poor, without any distinction, partake of it, according to the size of their families. Many of the farmers take the bread, as they say, for the sake of keeping up their right. It is stated that there is no document or record relating to this payment, nor any tradition respecting the origin of it.—X. p. 359.

 BEQUEST OF BREAD AND ALE FOR CHILDREN.
Burgh St. Margaret, Norfolk.

A piece of land, described in the terrier of 1827 as two roods, called Plow Light Half Acre, given for providing loaves and beer for poor children, is let to Christopher Hall, as yearly tenant, at £1. per annum.

This rent is distributed by trustees and other inhabitants amongst poor children in halfpenny loaves and ale. This has been the custom for a great many years.—XXVI. p. 267.

HALFPENNY BREAD CHARITY.

Godmanchester, Huntingdonshire.

Robert Grainger, by his will dated 10th October, 1578, gave and appointed as much bread as could be made of a coomb of wheat, to be made into halfpenny loaves, and to be distributed among the poor of Godmanchester by the churchwardens, to be charged on his mansion house in Godmanchester.

The present owner of the house pays the value of four bushels of wheat, according to the average price of wheat, at Huntingdon Market, on the Saturday before Good Friday, to a baker, for supplying bread, which is distributed on Good Friday.
—XXIV. p. 100.

BREAD AND MEAT CHARITY.

Godstone, Surrey.

Amongst other bequests by James Evelyn, Esq. to this parish, is one described as the Bread and Meat Charity. By a codicil to his will, dated 3rd July, 1793, he recommended that four stone of beef should be provided and made into broth, and distributed as theretofore during his lifetime, from the first Thursday in November to the last Thursday in April, both days inclusive; and that a round of beef, not weighing less than four stone two pounds and not exceeding four stone four pounds, should

be provided every Sunday in the year as theretofore during his lifetime ; and that the schoolmistress should be allowed after the rate of 1*d.* a head for beer, and 1*d.* a head for bread, for those who should partake of it, the number to be asked not to be less than twelve, nor to exceed fourteen ; and the testator desired that Elizabeth Rivers, of Felbridge, spinster, might be a partaker thereof during her lifetime ; and that 200 faggots should be provided yearly for the schoolmistress to dress the meat with, and that she should be allowed 6*d.* a week, from the first Thursday in November to the last Thursday in April, for her trouble in preparing the broth.

To meet the above expenditure, the dividends of £3,500 bank three per cent. annuities are annually applied, and the charge amounts to about £78. per annum.—XIII. p. 539.

INDISCRIMINATE CHARITY ON A SMALL SCALE.

Hampstead, Middlesex.

There is an indorsement on one of the indentures of gift to this parish, stating that £40. had been given by a maid deceased, to the intent that the churchwardens of Hampstead for the time being should provide and give to every one, rich and poor, great and small, young and old per-

BREAD AND CHEESE FIELD FEAST. 17

sons, inhabiting the parish, upon every Good Friday yearly for ever, one halfpenny loaf of wheaten bread.—XII. p. 147.

THE CANONS' BOUNTIFUL DOLE.

City of Hereford.

From the funds of the Cathedral in this city, an extensive dole, consisting of 4,360 loaves of bread, is annually distributed from the Canons' bakehouse amongst the poor of 33 parishes and inmates of prisons.—XXXII. pt. ii. p. 14.

BREAD AND CHEESE FIELD FEAST.

Westbere, Kent.

It is generally understood that the rents of a field, containing 1 acre, 3 roods, and known by the above name, are applicable to the purpose of finding bread and cheese for every person who slept in the parish three nights previous to the first Saturday after Old Midsummer Day. The rent is entered in the churchwarden's accounts for 1764, and amongst the disbursements is a charge annually for bread, cheese, tobacco, and beer, for the feast, which is held on the first Saturday after Midsummer.

The land is let to several poor persons as gar-

dens, at rents amounting to about £2., which is applied towards the expenses of an annual feast, of which the poor have the whole benefit.—XXX. p. 315.

BREAD FOR ALL.

Edlesborough, Buckinghamshire.

In the Parliamentary Returns of 1786 a donor of the name of Randell is stated to have given by deed in 1597 five quarters of wheat and money to the poor.

Forty-nine bushels of wheat are yearly sent by Lady Bridgewater to the mill to be ground in respect of this charity. They are ground, and the flour baked at her expense : the bread is made up in four pound loaves, which are given away by the parish officers on Easter Monday to all the poor of the parish, in shares varying according to the size of their families, a loaf being given to each individual.—XXVII. p. 84.

Swerford, Oxfordshire.

The Rector supplies a small loaf for every house in the parish on Easter Sunday, which is given after Evening Service.

It is understood that this is given on account of a bushel of wheat, which is payable out of a

field called Mill Close, part of the glebe. Each house, whether inhabited by rich or poor, receives a loaf.—XII. p. 281.

BREAD AND CHEESE LANDS.

Paddington, Middlesex.

The lands thus denominated are said to have been given by two maiden gentlewomen, for the purpose of supplying the poor with a donation of bread and cheese on the Sunday before Christmas. Neither the names of the donors nor the date of the gift are known, but it is a very ancient one.

The land is about 5a. 1r. 31p. in extent, and let at £40. 18s. per annum, which appeared to the Commissioners to be adequate to the value of the respective premises.

With the rents of this land it was formerly the custom to purchase bread and cheese, which, on the Sunday before Christmas, were thrown down from the church among the poor assembled in the churchyard.

Latterly a less objectionable mode of distribution has been adopted. Bread and coals are now given by the minister and parish officers to poor families inhabiting the parish, of whom a list is made out annually by the churchwardens, stat-

ing their residence and occupation, and the number of children under 10 years of age, and the Commissioners were assured that much care was taken in selecting those to receive this gift who were most deserving.

No distinction was made between parishioners and unsettled resident poor, nor between such as do or do not receive parochial relief.—XIV. p. 181.

BREAD.

Horley, Oxfordshire.

An inscription on a tombstone in Horley churchyard states that Thomas Saul, who died 6th March, 1671, gave to the poor of Horley six dozen of bread yearly for ever, to be given at Yellow Well on St. Thomas's day.

Yellow Well is the name of a close about a quarter of a mile from Horley, belonging to Samuel Borton, by whom the sum of 6s. per annum is paid: this is laid out in bread, which is given away at Yellow Well to poor widows and boys on the day above mentioned, the arrears for two or three years being sometimes given away together.—XII. p. 215.

BREAD, BEER, BEEF, AND BROTH, ACCOMPANIED WITH
A PERPETUATION OF LOYALTY.

St. Giles's, Norwich.

John Balliston, by will, 17th October, 1584, devised three tenements in St. Giles's next the Gates to certain persons, upon condition that they should make distribution to the poor in manner following, viz., that in the week before Christmas, the week before Michaelmas, and the week after Easter, in the church of St. Giles, the minister should request the poor people, all that should receive or have need of alms, to come to church, and request them to pray for the preservation of the Prince, &c. ; that the poor should place themselves four and four together, all that should be above the age of eleven years, and that every four of them should have set before them a twopenny wheat loaf, a gallon of best beer, and four pounds of beef and broth ; that the minister should have fourpence for his pains on each of the three days.

The rent of £2. a year is paid to the parish for the premises, which, with other charities, is laid out in the purchase of coals.—XXVII. p. 659.

AUXILIARY CHARITY.

St. Bartholomew by the Royal Exchange, London.

Several benefactors having given bread to the poor of this parish, Richard Crowshaw, Goldsmith, by will, 26 April, 1531, directed that £100. should be paid to provide 2s. weekly for ever, to be laid out in good cheese, to be delivered to the poor parishioners of this parish, according as they received the bread which then was and had been long given to them.

This sum of £100. was received by the parish and 2s. weekly are paid to a cheesemonger, who distributes monthly butter or cheese of the same value to eight poor women who are the oldest out-pensioners of the parish.—VIII. p. 253.

BEQUEST OF BEEF, PLUM PUDDING, AND ALE TO BOYS
AND GIRLS.

Hornchurch, Essex.

William Higgs, of Hornchurch, by will, dated 30th October, 1809, gave £50. stock in the 4 per cent. bank annuities to the treasurer for the time being of the charity school of Hornchurch, Romford, and Havering, upon trust to receive the dividends thereof, and lay out the same in the purchase of a round of beef and plum puddings, and half a pint of ale, to each boy and girl, and which it was

his desire might be provided and dressed hot for dinner for the charity children belonging to the said charity school, on the day on which the charity sermon was preached for the benefit of the said school for ever.—XXXII. p. i. p. 729.

 PLUM PUDDING MONEY.

Yardley, Worcestershire.

Such of the poor of this parish as are excluded from partaking of certain doles on account of receiving regular weekly relief, are allowed 1s. each out of a general charity fund at Christmas, under the name of plum pudding money, to the extent of about £4.—XXVI. p. 620.

 FEASTING THE POOR.

Wetheringsett, Suffolk.

The Rev. John Shepherd, by will 28th November, 1707, gave 40s. a year (which is charged on land called the Church Pightle, in Wetheringsett) to be expended as follows, viz. 20s. to buy meat and drink for a dinner for 20 poor persons of Wetheringsett and Brockford on Lady Day, 5s. for making ready the dinner, 2s. 6d. to the parson for reading prayers before dinner, 2s. 6d. for ringing a peal after dinner, and 10s. to be distributed

among the 20 poor persons ; and he further gave 50*s.* a year (charged on an estate at Kelshall) to the parson to buy six twopenny loaves weekly for six poor persons of Wetheringsett, to be named by him.

These annuities are paid and applied according to the donor's intention.—XX. p. 617.

BEEF AND BARLEY.

Nevern, Pembrokeshire.

William Rogers, by will, June, 1806, gave to the minister and churchwardens of Nevern and their successors, £800. three per cent. consols, to be transferred by his executors within six months after his decease ; and it was his will that the dividends should be laid out annually, one moiety thereof in good beef, the other moiety in good barley, the same to be distributed on every St. Thomas' day in every year, by the minister and churchwardens, to and among the poor of the said parish of Nevern.

After the payment of £1. to a solicitor in London, and a small amount for a stamp and postage, the dividends (£24.) are expended in the purchase of beef and barley, which is distributed by the churchwarden on 21st December to all the poor of the parish, in shares of between two and three

gallons of barley, and between two and three pounds of beef.—XXVIII. p. 692.

CAKE AND ALE CUSTOM.

Upton St. Leonard, Gloucestershire.

A lady of the name of George, living at the Parsonage, which she holds together with lands under the bishop, (it being a rectory impropriate,) has been in the habit of distributing annually cake and ale to poor housekeepers of this parish, and it is alleged to have been done by the owner of that property from time immemorial; but the origin of the custom is now no longer traceable. The quantity of ale given is what can be made with three bushels of malt, and the bread distributed is five dozen of penny and three dozen of two-penny loaves.—XVI. p. 60.

BARLEY COBBS.

Tainton, Oxfordshire.

A quarter of barley meal is provided annually at the expense of Lord Dynevor, the lord of the manor, and made into loaves called Cobbs.

These used to be given away in Tainton church to such of the poor children of Burford as attended. A sermon is preached on Saint Thomas's day

according to directions supposed to be contained in the will of Edmund Harman, 6s. 8d. being also paid out of Lord Dynover's estate to the preacher. The children used to make so much riot and disturbance in the church, that about 14 or 15 years ago (1809) it was thought better to distribute the Cobbs in a stable belonging to one of the churchwardens, and this course has been pursued ever since.—XII. p. 284.

PLUM CAKE LAND.

Swaffham Bulbeck, Cambridgeshire.

Before the inclosure, the tenant of the Abbey Farm in this parish, during those years in which the open field land was under tillage, used to give a slice of cake and a glass of ale to all parishioners who applied for it. Every third year the land was depastured, and the gift consequently interrupted. An acre in the open field was known by the name of Plum Cake Acre.—XXXI. p. 147.

FIGS AND ALE.

Giggleswick, Yorkshire.

Amongst other directions in the will of William Clapham, bearing date the 5th July 1603, is, that the sum of four shillings and four pence should be

yearly bestowed towards a potation amongst the poor scholars of the Freeschool in Giggleswick, on St. Gregory's day.

The Commissioners report, that they found a custom formerly prevailed of giving figs, bread and ale, among the scholars on that day; and that at present there is a distribution amongst them on the same day of bread and figs, to an amount considerably exceeding the sum of four shillings and four pence per annum.—XIII. p. 651.

LAND FOR BELLRINGERS' PORK.

Harlington, Middlesex.

It is stated in the register, under the date of 1683, that half an acre of land was given by some person, whose name was forgotten.

It has always been understood, that this piece of land was given for the benefit of the bellringers of the parish, to provide them with a leg of pork, for ringing on the 5th of November. It is called the Pork Acre. The ground is let by the parish officers at 50*s.* a year, which is paid by them to the bellringers.—IX. p. 226.

FISH AND PEAS,—BREAD AND CHEESE.

Bushey, Hertfordshire.

In an old parish register, it is stated, that “Mr. Gale gave a Haberdine fish, (barrelled cod, so called from Aberdeen, which was formerly famous for curing this kind of fish,) and half a peck of blue peas, to twenty widows and widowers, once a year. Half a peck loaf and two pounds of cheese to each person are given instead.”

Mr. Clutterbuck, the owner of a field, consisting of about five acres, lying in the parish of Bushey, distributes annually, some time in Lent, forty quartern loaves, and forty pounds of cheese, among twenty widows and twenty widowers of the parish, selected by the Rector.—XXV. p. 330.

BEQUEST OF WHEAT.

Rotherfield, Sussex.

Sir Henry Fermor, by will, dated in 1732, charged his lands, &c. in Hadlow, and Great Peckham, in Kent, with the payment of three loads of the best wheat bread corn, one of such loads to be delivered by the owners of such lands &c. on the 10th October in every year, to the churchwardens of the parish of Rotherfield, to be disposed of to forty industrious poor men and women, who should not receive alms of the

parish ; such poor people to be chosen, and such distribution to be made, by the freeholders of the parish at their vestry.

The Commissioners report, that the wheat is not now delivered by the owner and occupier of the estate which pays this charge, and which is called Goose Green Farm ; but it is purchased by the churchwarden at his request, he receiving the purchase-money from him.

It is distributed in accordance with the directions of the donor.—XXX. p. 767.

MONTHLY DONATION OF WHEAT.

St. Giles in the Wood, Devonshire.

A bushel of wheat is provided every lunar month by Lord Rolle, ground into flour, and made into bread at Stevenstone House, and is given there amongst twenty-six labouring poor people of the parish of St. Giles, according to a list, in which vacancies as they occur are filled up by Lord Rolle. The bread used formerly to be given at the church every fourth Sunday after divine service.

It is not known from whose donation this charity is derived, or at what period it commenced. The Returns to Parliament of 1786, state it to be the gift from one of the Rolle family.—XI. p. 80.

DONATIONS OF WHEAT.

Assington, Suffolk.

John Winterflood, by will, dated 2d April 1593, gave to the poor of Assington four bushels of meslin, payable out of the manor of Aveley Hall, to be distributed in bread at Christmas ; and four bushels of meslin out of the rectory or priory of Assington, to be distributed in bread at Easter ; and under this donation four bushels of wheat are brought to Assington Church, and distributed among the poor at Christmas ; and the like quantity of wheat at Easter, by or on behalf of John Gurdon, esq., as owner of the manor and farm of Aveley Hall, and the rectorial tithes of Assington.—XX. p. 551.

 WHEAT AND BARLEY CUSTOM.
Great Staughton, Huntingdonshire.

The rectory estate in this parish, which is now the property of General Onslow, is subject to a customary payment of four bushels of wheat, and ten bushels of barley, for the poor of Great Staughton ; and the value thereof, according to the market price immediately before Good Friday, is paid by General Onslow to the churchwardens, and laid out by them in bread, which is distributed, on the last mentioned day, amongst poor persons at the church.—XXIV. p. 114.

GIFT OF WHEAT, BARLEY AND RYE, FOR ALMS.

Godmanchester, Huntingdonshire.

By a deed, dated 27th January 1443, it was provided and agreed that the proctors of the priory of Morton, to which the rectory of Godmanchester then belonged, should yearly, in the first week in Lent, cause to be delivered, on behalf of the said priory, out of the profits of the rectory and church, to the vicar and bailiffs of Godmanchester, in alms, three quarters of wheat, three quarters of rye, and one quarter of barley, to be distributed among the poor parishioners at the discretion of the vicar and bailiffs; such render to be made in lieu of certain quantities of wheat, rye, and peas, which, by ancient custom, the priory had been used to distribute every Wednesday and Friday weekly.

In respect of this charity, the tenant of the rectory farm at Godmanchester, belonging to the Dean and Chapter of Westminster, renders every year four quarters of wheat, and three quarters of barley, to the minister and bailiffs, who distribute the same on the rectory farm on Good Friday, among poor persons of the parish.—XXIV. p. 99.

BEQUEST OF WHEAT AND PEAS.

Wilmington, Kent.

In a terrier, exhibited 14th August 1774, at the archdeacon's visitation, a copy whereof is entered in the parish register, it is stated, that from the establishment of the Dean and Chapter of Rochester, in the time of Henry VIII. in their leases of the parsonages of Sutton and Wilmington, their lessees had covenanted to deliver to the parishioners of Sutton and Wilmington a certain quantity of wheat and grain at Easter yearly, to be distributed by the churchwardens of these parishes to the needy persons within the same; and that in their lease of the said rectories, granted 25th November 1772, the lessee covenanted to deliver twenty bushels of peas to be distributed amongst the most needy persons in Sutton, and twelve bushels of peas amongst the like persons in Wilmington; and also to deliver three bushels of wheat, to be distributed amongst the poor of Sutton and Wilmington; and it is added that the usage had been for the poor of Wilmington to receive only one out of the three bushels of wheat.

At Christmas 1835, the corn and grain was received from Mr. East of Clerkenwell, and was distributed amongst about forty poor persons of the parish according to the number in family.—XXX. p. 399.

CHARITABLE ALLOWANCE OUT OF GREAT TITHES.

Eaton Bray, Bedfordshire.

This consists of a yearly contribution of one quarter of wheat, one quarter of barley, and one quarter of beans, by the proprietor of the great tithes of this parish, to be distributed amongst the poor of the parish on Good Friday.

This charity has existed for a great many years, and is ascribed to the bounty of a family named Bray, who formerly resided in the parish, and owned the great tithes; but there are no writings relative to it now to be found in the parish, and the Commissioners had not been able to ascertain any further particulars concerning its origin.

The great tithes of Eaton Bray are vested in the master and fellows of Trinity College, Cambridge, by whose lessee the quantity of grain above specified is regularly supplied; the whole of which is distributed on Good Friday by the churchwardens and overseers, among poor persons selected by them, in proportions suitable to their several wants and necessities.—VI. p. 36.

INDISCRIMINATE GIFT OF PEAS IN LENT.

Great Witchingham, Norfolk.

P. Le Neve Foster, esq., who in 1835 held the rectorial tithes of this parish, under a lease from the warden and fellows of New College, Oxford, was bound, by a covenant contained therein, to provide and distribute to and amongst the poor inhabitants and parishioners of Witchingham St. Mary, as before time it had been accustomed, two seams of peas, containing in all sixteen bushels.

The practice has been to give to every person who happens to be in the parish on Ash Wednesday, whether rich or poor, inhabitants or strangers, one quart of peas each; and in this manner, Mr. Foster has given away annually upwards of eighteen bushels of peas.—XXIX. p. 622.

 BEQUEST OF WHITE PEAS.
Sawston, Cambridgeshire.

John Huntingdon, by will, dated 4th August 1554, devised lands and tenements to Joice his wife, and his heirs, upon condition that his heirs should yearly for ever sow two acres of land, lying together in Linton field, with white peas, one combe to be yearly bestowed upon each acre, for the relief of the people of Sawston.

Two acres, the property of Richard Huddle-

stone, esq. the lord of the several manors in the parish, are annually sowed with white peas, as directed by the will, which are gathered green on a day fixed by Mr. Cooper, the occupier of the land, by all the poor indiscriminately, when a complete scene of scramble and confusion ensues, attended with occasional conflicts.—XXXI. p. 205.

BEQUEST OF RYE FOR THE POOR.

Exning, Suffolk.

There is a customary payment made for the poor by the owner of the impropriate rectory of Exning, of ten coombs of rye, or the value thereof.

Mr. Bryant, of Newmarket, the owner, pays the value of ten coombs, determined according to the average price of rye for the year, which is distributed to the poor in proportion to the size of their families.—XXII. p. 163.

BEQUEST OF RYE.

Alrewas, Staffordshire.

On a table in the church, entitled, "Benefactions left to the poor of Alrewas, to be distributed yearly for ever," there is the following inscription:—

“Sixteen bushels of rye, one half on St. Thomas’s day, the other half on Good Friday, to be paid from those that hold the great tithe of this parish.”

It is not known with whom this benefaction originated, but it has existed beyond the memory of any one now living in the parish. The rye is apportioned, in proportion to the assessment to the rates, between the townships of Alrewas, Fradley, and Orgreave, into which the parish is divided. In Alrewas, the distribution is made by the churchwarden, who gives it to those whom he thinks most in need, principally to widows, apportioning it according to the size of their families. In Fradley and Orgreave, the benefaction has been divided, upon a similar principle, into one, two, or three quarters* to a family. The rye is paid for by Lord Anson, the present owner of the great tithe.—VII. p. 290.

LIBERAL BEQUEST OF OATMEAL.

Ince, Lancashire.

Under the name of Richardson’s Charity, a distribution takes place annually on the feast of the Ascension, *of five loads of oatmeal*, each load weighing two hundred and forty pounds. Three

* So in original, but *qu.* quarts.

loads are given to the poor of the township of Ince, one to the poor of Abram, and the other to the poor of Hindley.

The meal is provided by Mr. Cowley of Widnes, the owner of an estate in Ince, formerly the property of Edward Richardson, who, the Commissioners were informed, directed by his will that this distribution should be made for fifty years from the time of his death. The year 1784 was given as the date of this benefaction in the Returns made to Parliament in 1786. Mr. Cowley has himself had the disposal of the charity.—XXI. p. 308.

TOWN MALT.

Whittlesford, Cambridgeshire.

A quarter of malt is annually received from the occupier of a field called Askams, the property of Richard Huddleston, esq. It is stated to be given in lieu of the after-feed of this piece of land, which formerly belonged to the parish. It is brewed into beer, which is given away on the day when the bounds of the parish used to be beaten before the inclosure.—XXXI. p. 214.

WINE TO CHEER THE HEART.

Gloucester.

Gregory Wiltshire, by will, dated 8th Sept. 1585, gave to the chamber of the city of Gloucester for ever £100, to the intent, that, within one month after the receipt of the same, it should be delivered, by the appointment of the mayor and aldermen, with the consent of the overseers of his will, unto five clothiers of the same city; that is to say, unto every of them £20 a-piece for ten years together, putting in good assurance for the same, giving nothing for the use thereof, but only yearly every one of them a gallon of wine during the whole ten years, at the new mayor's banquet on the day of his election, of which three gallons should be presented to the mayor, and two gallons to the four stewards, then elected; provided always, that after the end of ten years, it should be delivered to five other clothiers of the same city, by the consents and conditions aforesaid, and so be employed for ever.

It appeared by the city accounts, under the head of charity money, and from inferences arising thereon, that all had been lost except £20 lent to one Evans; but, as low down as 1793, this charity was thus commemorated:—

“ Mr. Wiltshire's gift of £100, to be lent to five

tradesmen for five years, they paying a gallon of wine yearly, now in hand."

It was urged by the corporation, that the phrase "now in hand" was meant to be applied only to the £20 lent to Evans, and repaid by him; and it certainly seems as if the statement last adverted to was copied from former lists into the book by the city accountant.—XIV. p. 32.

 DRINKING.

Slinfold, Sussex.

Edward Cooper, by his will, dated 10th February 1621, gave 20*s.* a-year out of lands called Whitbers in Slinfold, 15*s.* thereof to be bestowed by the churchwardens and overseers upon a drinking, for the use of the poor of the parish yearly, at the feast day of the Purification of the Virgin, in as good sort as they could, and the other 5*s.* to drink withal themselves, for their labour and pains therein.

The land is now called South Whitbreads and the property of Edward Bruce Bunney, esq., who regularly pays the sum of £1 yearly, which is distributed amongst the poor at Christmas, by the churchwardens and overseers.—XXX. p. 638.

A SINGULAR BENEFACTION OF BARLEY, TO PROMOTE
EDUCATION.*Great Coxwell, Berks.*

It appears, from a tablet without date in the church, that the Reverend David Collier charged certain lands in the hamlet of Little Coxwell with the payment of eight bushels of barley yearly, on the 29th of September, for teaching two poor children of this parish to read, write, and cast accounts, for three years, when they were to be succeeded by two others, to be taught for the same term, and so on successively for ever; and he empowered the vicar and churchwardens, or the major part of them, (the vicar being always one,) to nominate the children.

The land charged with this annual payment was in 1819 the property of Robert Baldwin. The payment has been regularly made, sometimes in kind, but latterly in money, estimated at the price of barley at the Farringdon Market the nearest to the day when the annual payment becomes due; according to this estimate, the last amounted to £3. 10s. The payment is made, under the direction of the churchwardens, to a schoolmistress, for teaching three children to read, and, if girls, to work also. The number of children was formerly two only, who were further taught to write and cast accounts, but

this part of their education was discontinued many years ago, in consequence of the inadequacy of the fund, and, instead thereof, an additional child was sent to be instructed with the others, on the more limited scale, which is at present observed. The children are duly appointed by the vicar and churchwardens, and continue at school for three years.—I. p. 27.

PETTICOAT LAND CUSTOM.

Stockton-in-the-Forest, Yorkshire.

A small piece of ground, being a rood or thereabouts, in this parish, called Petticoat Hole, the property of Mrs. Ware, of York, is held subject to an ancient custom of providing a petticoat yearly for a poor woman of Stockton, selected by the owner of the land. The piece of ground was formerly separated from the contiguous land, but is now thrown into one field, with a fourteen-acre close adjoining, belonging to Mrs. Ware, and let therewith.

Mrs. Ware supplies a blue serge gown in lieu of a petticoat every winter, to a poor woman of Stockton.—VIII. p. 720.

BEQUEST OF FLANNEL AND CLOTH TO ONE
HUNDRED PLACES.*Ashborne, Derbyshire.*

This is one of the parishes entitled to partake of a noble charity, the foundation of which is thus recorded:—

By indenture, bearing date 6th December 1817, between the Reverend Francis Gisborne, of Staveley, in the county of Derby, of the one part, and the honourable Philip Pleydell Bouverie and three clergymen of the other part, reciting that the said Francis Gisborne, wishing to establish a fund for providing flannel and coarse woollen cloth for the poor of the several rectories, &c. mentioned in the schedule to such indenture annexed, *being one hundred in number*, had invested £13,500 in the purchase of £16,167.13s. 4d. three per cent. consolidated bank annuities, in the names of the said parties of the second part, to the intent that they might stand possessed thereof upon the trusts hereinafter declared; it was witnessed, that, for declaring the trusts of the said stock, it was agreed that the said parties of the second part, their executors, &c. should stand possessed thereof on trust that they should yearly receive the dividends, and, after retaining sufficient to satisfy the expenses incurred in the execution of the trust, should pay the residue

yearly, amongst the rectors, vicars, curates or ministers, or, in case of their absence, the churchwardens of the several rectories, &c. in such shares as the said parties of the second part, or the trustees for the time being, should think proper, but so that no rector, &c. should have more than £5. 10s. in any one year; and the donor directed that each rector, &c. should apply the dividends yearly paid to him in the purchase of flannel and coarse Yorkshire woollen cloth, and should in his discretion, at Christmas yearly, distribute the same among such of the poor residing within the parish in which his rectory, &c. should be situate, whether they should or should not have received the benefit of parochial relief, and whether they should have obtained a legal settlement therein or not, in such shares as to the said rector, &c. should seem expedient. And he also directed that, as often as by the death or removal or refusal to act of any trustee, the number should be reduced to two, the survivors should nominate other persons to be trustees, the Archdeacon of Derby for the time being to be one, notwithstanding there should be three other acting trustees, unless he should refuse to act; and that transfers of the said stock should be made accordingly.

The said Francis Gisborne, by his will, dated 7th May 1818, after making various bequests,

directed that all the residue of his personal estate should be divided into three equal parts, one part whereof he gave to the infirmary at Sheffield, another to the infirmary at Derby, and the remaining third part to the said Philip Pleydell Bouverie, and the other trustees before mentioned, upon the same trusts as were declared concerning the before-mentioned sum of £16,167. 13*s.* 4*d.*, and he appointed Edmund Antrobus, esq. executor of his will.

In July 1821 Mr. Gisborne died, and his executor divided the residue of the personal estate according to the directions of the will; in respect of the third part appropriated to this charity, he transferred £4083 three per cent. consolidated annuities, and £2643 three per cent. reduced annuities, into the names of Mr. Bouverie and the Reverend Mr. Field, and also paid to them £116. 14*s.* 5*d.* in money, their two co-trustees being then dead.

The total amount of the stock given by the said deed and will is £22,893. 13*s.* 4*d.* producing £686. 16*s.* 3*d.* per annum.

After taking credit for all the payments due from the charity to Christmas 1825, there then remained in the hands of Messrs. Bouverie and Co. a balance of £329. 9*s.* 5*d.* The trustees had presented a petition to the Court of Chancery, praying for a reference to one of the masters of

the court, to approve of a scheme for the disposal of the surplus income, beyond the amount limited by the donor for each place.

The Schedule referred to in the indenture contains the names of the following places, to partake of Mr. Gisborne's charity.

Ashborne.	Brampton.
Ashover.	Castleton.
Alfreton.	Carsington.
Ashford.	Chesterfield.
Atlow.	Chapel-en-le-Frith.
Bonsall.	Clowne.
Bakewell.	Crich.
Buxton.	Chelmorton.
Bradley.	Derwent.
Bradborne.	Darley.
Barlbrough.	Dethick.
Barlow.	Denby.
Bighton.	Dronfield.
Bentley.	Dore.
Blackwell.	Duffield.
Brassington.	Edale.
Bolsover.	Eckington.
Belper.	Elmton.
Baslow.	Eyam.
Beeley.	Elton.
Ballidon.	Edensor.
Brimington.	Fairfield.

Glossop.	Ockbrook.
Hartington.	Peak forest.
Hathersage.	Pleasley.
Hartshorn.	Pinxton.
Heage.	Pentrich.
Hope.	Parwich.
Hault Hucknall.	Shirland.
Heath.	South Normanton.
Heanor.	Spondon.
Hayfield.	Sterndale.
Horsley.	Scarcliffe.
Hognaston.	South Wingfield.
Holmesfield.	Sutton cum Duck-
Ilkeston.	manton.
Kirk Ireton.	Sheldon.
Kniveton.	Smalley.
Kirk Hallam.	Tideswell.
Killamarsh.	Tibshelf.
Longstone.	Taddington.
Matlock.	Turnditch.
Mellor.	West Hallam.
Morton.	Wirksworth.
Mugginton.	Whittington.
Monyash.	Whitwell.
Middleton Stoney.	Wormhill.
Mickleover.	Winster.
North Wingfield.	Wingerworth.
Norton.	Youlgreave.
Normanton Temple.	XVII. p. 72.

A MOST BENEFICIAL CHARITY.

St. Andrew, Holborn, London.

In the year 1821 a sum of one hundred pounds was given by a lady, who desired that her name should not be made public, the interest whereof she directed to be annually given by the minister and churchwardens to six poor lying-in women, the wives of Irishmen residing in the Saffron Hill Liberty of the parish of St. Andrew, Holborn. This was invested in the 4 per cents., and the dividend is placed in the hands of the collector and agent for a lying-in charity in the parish, who applies it according to the directions of the donor, and gives an account of the application to the rector and churchwardens.—XIV. p. 122.

MEDICINAL CHARITY.

Whitsbury, Wilts.

A tablet outside the tower of Whitsbury Church records that Charles Delafaye, esq., of Whitsbury, bequeathed £200 South Sea annuities for the benefit of the poor of that parish, the interest of which was to be laid out annually in physic or surgery for the recovery of industrious distressed objects, who were disabled from work by sickness or accident. If but few should need this relief, and the annual produce should not be expended in any one year, the surplus should be applied in the putting out

a poor boy apprentice. This benefaction was not intended to free the parish from giving all necessary assistance to the distressed or disabled poor, and was not to be continued to any object for more than three months.

From 1827 to 1832 the parish was so healthy that no medical assistance was required amongst that portion of the industrious poor as needed not parochial relief, and to which class the gift seems to have been confined.

In 1832, £30 was paid as a premium with an apprentice. The vicar keeps an account of the charity.—XXVI. p. 519.

POOR MEN'S LAND.

Winterslow, Wilts.

There is some land in this parish called the Poor Folks' Grounds, the rent of which is annually applied for their benefit. How it was acquired is not certain, nor are there any writings relating to it. It is supposed to have been given to the poor as a compensation for their surrender of a right of commonage in other parts of the parish many years previous to the inclosure of Winterslow [common]*, which took place about 1767.

* This appears necessary to complete the meaning: no doubt but the word was accidentally omitted in compiling the original report.

The Commissioners could not obtain an exact account of the precise bounds of the ground, but it is well known, and measures about 15 acres. One part of it was let to Thomas Bell at £7 a year rent, and another part to J. N. Curtis at a rent of £16. 11s.

All the poor in the parish meet together and settle this business. They derive from the land above half a crown a-piece. It is managed for them by a person appointed by themselves, to whom they give 2s. a year for collecting the rents, which are honestly divided.

Curtis's land was let by auction, and the rent of £16. 11s. is the utmost value.—XXVI. p. 459.

WIDOWS' HOSPITAL.

Hunmanby, Yorkshire.

The origin of this charity is wholly unknown, and there are no documents in existence by which the particulars of it can now be traced. The chief feature of interest in connexion with it is, that each widow receives from Humphrey Osbaldeston, esq. a customary allowance of one peck of barley a month. The number of widows, from the indifference of the accommodation, seldom exceeds four.—X. p. 654.

BEQUEST TO PROVIDE AN ASYLUM FOR MAIDEN
GENTLEWOMEN IN THEIR OLD AGE.*York, Masons' Hospital.*

Mary Wandesford of the city of York, spinster, by will, 4 Nov. 1725, gave all her lands, &c. to the Archbishop of York and others, in trust for the use and benefit of ten poor gentlewomen, who were never married, and should be of the religion practised in the Church of England, who should retire from the noise and hurry of the world into a religious house; a protestant retirement to be provided for them where they should be obliged to continue for life; and she directed that if any person elected into that society by the trustees, (whom she constituted and appointed perpetual electors,) should withdraw herself from the house, or should marry or behave herself unsuitably to the design and rules of the foundation, the trustees should remove her, and fill her place with another gentlewoman.

And she directed her trustees to purchase a convenient habitation for the said poor gentlewomen, where they might all live together under one roof, and make a small congregation, once at least every day at prayers, such as her trustees should think proper for their ease and circumstances, and she appointed £10 per annum to be paid to a reader, who should be appointed by her trustees.

The maiden gentlewomen admitted, are appointed by the trustees on petition, stating the age, place of abode, and means of the petitioner; that she has lived in the communion of the Church of England, is of sober life and conversation, and of respectable character. Proof is required, that she is above the age of fifty years.—IV. p. 378.

BEQUEST TO THE OLDEST WIDOW IN THE PARISH.

Albury, Hertfordshire.

There was formerly a house upon Upwick Green, now in ruins, to which a quarter of an acre of land belonged, the occupier whereof pays an annual rent of 8*s.* to the oldest widow in the parish.

The vicar and parish officers have no document to shew the manner in which this land came to the parish, but the commissioners were assured that they would attend to the letting of the property, and exercise a due vigilance over it.—XXIX. p. 337.

SIR JOHN POPHAM'S ALMS HOUSES.

Wellington, Somerset.

This institution owes its origin to Sir John Popham, formerly Lord Chief Justice of England, who caused it to be erected for the maintenance of twelve poor and impotent or aged people, such as had been of honest fame and of a good report, especially true working or labouring people, whereof six to be men, and the most discreet of them to be the president of the men, and six other to be women, and the most modest and discreet of them to be the matron of the women, and for the education of two poor men's children fatherless and motherless, not being base born, until such time as they should be nine years old or bound apprentice.—After directing provision for the inmates, Sir John further ordered, "*that one piece of timber should be set up over-against the said hospital, in or near the footpath of the highway there, with an iron box upon it, to be close locked, with a notch in the top, to receive into the same box the charity of such people as did pass, either on horseback or on foot, which every night should be taken out by the president and matron, and each of them should have a key thereof, or in their default, by one other man or woman of the hospital, and to be punctually told and to be put into some strong chest to be*

provided for that purpose, the keys whereof to be always kept by some one of the governors to be opened but once every quarter, and then the amount should be bestowed or employed for the use of the hospital, and of the persons in it.

The Commissioners' Report is silent as to the amount received by this highway poorbox.—
XV. p. 398.

THE GRATITUDE OF A REPRESENTATIVE IN
PARLIAMENT.

Warwick.

Henry Archer, esq. late of Hale in the county of Southampton, by will, dated the 5th November 1764, gave the sum of £500 to the poor of the borough of Warwick, in grateful remembrance of the very great honour conferred on him by the said borough (which he represented in Parliament) for thirty years and upwards, to be disposed of, and managed to the best advantage of the said poor by his brother Lord Archer, the Earl of Warwick, and Matthew Wise, esq., and by the respective vicars, churchwardens and overseers of the poor of the parishes of St. Mary and St. Nicholas in the said borough for the time being.

The interest is employed in purchasing coals

in the summer, and selling them to the poor at a reduced price in winter.—XVII. p. 538.

CAT AND DOG MONEY.

Christchurch, Spitalfields, Middlesex.

A benefaction table in the church states that, by a decree of Chancery 23rd November 1797, in a cause between the Attorney General and Friend, and a subsequent order of 8th August 1806, the annual sum of £16. 9s. 2d., being the dividends on £548. 12s. 11d. three per cent. Bank annuities, is payable to the churchwardens of this parish, and of the parish of St. Matthew, Bethnal Green, pursuant to the will and codicil of John George Fabry, such interest (after deducting £2. 2s. half yearly, as directed by the codicil,) to be divided amongst six poor widows of weavers of the names of Fabry or Ovington.*

The tradition in the parish is, that the money was given in the first instance for the support of cats and dogs; and it is called the Cat and Dog Money. No information can be obtained of the date of the will by which this charity is bequeathed. The money is always distributed at a public vestry.—XXXII. part ii. p. 548.

* Of the age of 50 years or upwards, and the preference to be given to those of good character.

PENNY CHARITY CUSTOM OR DOLE.

Walsall, Staffordshire.

There is an annual payment called Moseley's Dole, which the corporation are accustomed to make of a penny a-piece to all the inhabitants of the parish of Walsall, and of the adjoining parish of Rushall, which is supposed to have anciently formed part of that of Walsall.

Three persons are employed to make the distribution, who begin on New Year's Day, and go through the parishes, giving a penny to every inmate of every house, whether permanently or accidentally abiding there.

It is said in Plot's History of Staffordshire that the earliest mention of this dole is in the 36th Henry VIII., when £7. 10s. 9d. discharged it.

The first trace of it that is found in the documents of the Corporation is in 1632, when its amount was £14. 9s. 4d. The amount increased gradually till 1799, when it was £60., and it has continued within a few shillings of that sum ever since.

There are different traditions respecting the origin of this dole, which it is not necessary to notice, but they concur in attributing it to one Thomas Moseley, from whom an estate at Bascott in Warwickshire was derived, which is now possessed by the Corporation. From this, among other causes, has arisen a suspicion that the whole of

that estate under the various grants thereof was given and is now held by the Corporation in trust for charitable uses ; but the Commissioners, after noticing various grants and deeds from 1447 to 1820, observe as follows:— “ It does not appear to us that these documents afford any satisfactory inference that this property was granted by Queen Elizabeth to charitable uses : no such purpose is expressed in the grant itself ;” (alluding to a belief entertained to that effect by a Jury in a commission for charitable uses, 1726;) “ the Corporation appear always to have exercised the management of the property, and the administration of its revenue. The dole, which was paid from it before the grant from the Crown, and which the Corporation have continued since, seems to have originated in a voluntary appropriation of a part of the income, and not in any condition of either of the original grants by which the property was acquired,” &c. “ With respect to the dole itself, it appears to us to be at the present day a very useless mode of employing a large sum of money, which in other ways might be made productive of considerable benefit.

“ Believing it, therefore, to be, though a very ancient yet a voluntary, and therefore a revocable, payment, we think it is strongly to be recommended to the Corporation to substitute for it some other mode of application, which might render the fund really beneficial.”—IX. p. 573—577.

PARSON'S HORSE MONEY.

Yapham-cum-Meltonby, Yorkshire.

There is an ancient payment of 3s. 4d. as the value of a pound of pepper, made out of the chapel lands, as due to the occupier of a certain farm in Yapham, for taking care of the parson's horse, which he is bound to do whenever the parson goes there to do duty.—XI. p. 741.

CHRISTMAS DINNER MONEY.

Great Barr, Staffordshire.

In Shaw's History of Staffordshire is mentioned a custom formerly prevalent in this parish, for the rector on every Christmas Day to give to every person, great and small, of his parish, that would then come to his house, as much bread, beef, mustard and vinegar as they could eat, but which had of late years been commuted for a money payment.

The Commissioners were informed by an old parishioner that he had often heard his father speak of this dinner as having been usually given in his time. It has for many years been discontinued, and, instead thereof, the rector of Aldridge now gives to every housekeeper who demands it in Aldridge 6d. and in Barr 8d., which is called Custom Money. The origin of the custom is unknown.—XII. p. 542.

LOTTERY LUCK.

Woodstock, Oxfordshire.

By indenture, dated December, 1738, between Sarah Cocks, daughter and executrix of Sir Robert Cocks, baronet, deceased, and Sir Robert Cocks, baronet, son and heir of the baronet deceased, reciting that the said deceased baronet had about 1719 purchased several tickets in the then state lottery, and before the drawing thereof had publicly declared that if any or either of them should come up a prize, he would apply the money arising therefrom to the use of the poor of the borough of New Woodstock; also reciting that one of the said tickets was drawn a prize of £1000, which said prize had been sold for the sum of £800; that Sir Robert had constantly applied the interest to the use of the borough up to the time of his death; that, as he had not left any direction in his will concerning it, and the said Sarah Cocks being charitably inclined, and desirous to execute the design of her father, had purchased an estate in the parish of Arncott of the yearly value of £36.; it was witnessed that she granted the same to her brother the said Sir Robert Cocks and his heirs in trust, to apply the rents and profits for certain uses in such indenture more particularly expressed, for the benefit of the inhabitants of the said borough of New Woodstock. The lands consist of 75 acres,

and the profits are applied chiefly in educating and apprenticing poor children.—XII. p. 323.

STONE PICKING MONEY.

Williamscot, Oxfordshire.

The sum of one pound is paid annually, by Mr. Brewerton of North Aston, as being charged upon a farm called Fearn Hill in Williamscot: it is called stone picking money, and is given at the rate of 4*d.* a head to all the women and children as far as it will go.—XII. p. 191.

FEASTING CUSTOM.

Fenny Stratford, Buckinghamshire.

There is a house in this hamlet, called St. Martin's house, in the wall of which is a stone, bearing the following inscription:—

“This house was settled on the parish officers of this town, for the annual observance of St. Martin's day.”—“Anno Domini, 1752.”

The house is let at £5. 4*s.* per annum, and the rent, after defraying the expense of repairs, is laid out in giving an entertainment to the inhabitants of the town.—XXVII. p. 188.

LOVE FEASTS.

London, Weavers' Company.

By indenture, bearing date 11th April, 1691, John Hall granted a messuage in the parish of St. Martin Orgar, to Francis Kenton and another, in trust to pay out of the rents thereof, amongst other sums, 10s. a year to the churchwardens of the parish of St. Clement Eastcheap, London, on the Thursday next before Easter, to provide two turkies for the parishioners, to be eaten at their annual feast, called the reconciling or love feast, usually made on that day.

The house is in the possession of the Weavers' Company, who make the payment for the turkies annually.—VIII. p. 391.

 THE BIDDENDEN MAIDS' CHARITY.
Biddenden, Kent.

An inscription in the church states, that twenty acres of land, consisting of five pieces, bounded east by the glebe land and by the king's highway south, and another piece bounded by the king's highway north, were let at the yearly rent of £31. 10s. which was distributed by the churchwardens yearly, with the consent of the parishioners, for the relief of the poor.

This land is supposed to have been given by

Eliza and Mary Chulkhurst, commonly called the Biddenden Maids, and the annual rent is, together with Taylor's and Hooper's charity, given in part to poor widows belonging to the parish : those who do not receive parochial relief, have the choice of £1. 4*s.* in money, or 4*s.* and one hundred fagots ; those who are in receipt of parish relief, receive 2*s.* each. The residue, after the before mentioned distribution has been effected, is expended in the purchase of flour, which is made into loaves and rolls, and a quantity of cheese. The rolls are very small, and are given as a remembrance of the donors, each of them having the figure of the two sisters impressed on it.*

Every Easter Sunday, after evening service, a quartern loaf with nearly a pound of cheese is given to such poor persons as apply, and a similar distribution takes place on the Tuesday following. Every poor family in the parish

* See one of these cakes, engraved in Ducarel's Repertory of the Dioceses of Canterbury and Rochester, 1782, p. 137 ; and another pattern in Hone's Every-Day Book, vol. ii. 443. From their figures on the cakes, the maids have been supposed twins united at the hips and shoulders, born in 1100, and to have lived in that state for 34 years ; but Hasted regards this as a vulgar tradition, and says the real name of the donors of the gift was Preston.

receives on each of these days one loaf of bread with the cheese above mentioned and one of the rolls, and if there be any surplus remaining, it is given to those who appear to be most in need. The sum distributed in 1835 amounted to £75. 7s. 6d.—XXX. p. 514.

REQUEST OF BEANS AND BARLEY, TO GET FREE OF
A CHANCERY SUIT.

Thorpe St. Peter's, Lincolnshire.

By indenture, dated February, 1663, Ann Watts, in consideration that a suit in Chancery against her should cease, and be withdrawn, did covenant and grant that she should pay to the churchwardens and overseers of the town of Thorpe yearly, on Good Friday, one seam of beans, and one seam of barley, of good and merchantable corn, at the church porch, to be distributed amongst the poor of the same town, at the discretion of the churchwardens and overseers, with power of distress on the impropriate parsonage of Thorpe or the lands thereof, in default.

The Commissioners report that for a number of years past no beans or barley have been furnished to the poor, the charity having been distributed in money.—XXXII. part iv. p. 546.

PROVIDING FOR A WET DAY.

Castlerigg, Cumberland.

Thomas Williamson, by will, dated 14th Dec. 1674, gave the sum of £20 to be laid out in land to be bestowed upon poor people, born within St. John's Chapelry or Castlerigg, in mutton or veal, at Martinmas yearly, when flesh might be thought cheapest, to be by them pickled or hung up and dried, that they might have something to keep them within doors upon stormy days.

The money now belonging to this charity is £40.—V. p. 82.

BULL BAITING.

Wokingham, Berks.

George Staverton, by will, in May, 1661, gave out of his Staines house a yearly sum of £6. to buy a bull, which bull he gave to the poor of Wokingham town and parish, being baited, and the gift money, hide, and offal to be sold and bestowed upon the poor children in stockings of the Welsh, and shoes.

Until 1823 the baiting of the animal took place yearly on the 21st December, in the Market place of Wokingham. In that year the Corporation determined upon discontinuing such a proceeding, which has since accordingly been omitted. In

Christmas 1835, the mob broke open in the night the place where one of the animals was kept, and baited it, in spite of the magistrates to prevent them; and similar attempts have been made on other occasions.—XXXII. pt. i. p. 220 (corrected from private information.)

BOTELER'S BULL CHARITY.

Biddenham, Bedfordshire.

This is an ancient annual payment of £5. out of an estate at Biddenham, formerly belonging to the family of Boteler, and now the property of Lord Viscount Hampden, which is due and regularly paid on St. Thomas's Day to the overseers of the poor, and is applicable by the terms of the original gift (of which no written memorial is to be found) or by long established usage, to the purchase of a bull, which is killed, and the flesh thereof given among the poor persons of the parish.

For many years past the annual fund being insufficient to purchase a bull, the deficiency has been made good out of other charities belonging to the parish. It was proposed some years ago by the vicar that the £5. a year should be laid out in buying meat, but the poor insisted on the customary purchase of a bull being continued, and the usage is accordingly kept up.

The price of the bull has varied of late years from £9. to £14. The churchwardens, overseers, and principal inhabitants assist at the distribution of the meat.—VI. p. 32.

WHITSUNTIDE BEER.

There is an ancient customary donation of a quantity of malt, made annually at Whitsuntide by the proprietor of Kempston Mill, near this parish. The malt is always delivered to the overseers of the poor for the time being, and brewed by them into ale, which is distributed among all the poor inhabitants of Biddenham on Whit Tuesday.

(The Report is silent as to the quantity of malt given, or ale dispensed.)—VI. p. 33.

PARISH BULL.

Twickenham, Middlesex.

From a copy of court roll of the manor of Isleworth Syon, dated 29th December, 1675, it appears that Thomas Cole surrendered 4a. 1r. of customary land lying in several places in the fields of Twickenham, called the Parish Land, anciently belonging to the inhabitants of Twickenham, for keeping a bull for the common use of the inhabitants, in trust for the use of the said inhabitants,

for keeping and maintaining a sufficient bull for the use aforesaid.

An entry in an old churchwardens' ledger of the 6th October, 1622, states an agreement between the vestry and Mr. Robert Bartlett, that he should hold the three acres and a half of the Parish Land with the Bull Mead, paying the same rent to the parish as he formerly did, with the condition that he, receiving a bull from the churchwardens for the common use of the parishioners, should keep the same at his own charge; and if the bull should die, should provide another.—VIII. p. 401.

THE CUSTOM OF THE BULL AND BOAR.

Prince's Risborough, Buckinghamshire.

Up to about 1813 a bull and a boar, a sack of wheat, and a sack of malt, were given away to the poor by the lord of the manor of Prince's Risborough about six o'clock every Christmas morning. This practice was then discontinued, and for about five or six years after the discontinuance, beef and mutton were distributed to the poor about Christmas, in lieu of the above articles.

Mr. Grubb, of the parsonage house, the lord of the manor, whose father first discontinued the above customary distribution, produced to the Commissioners a case, which his father laid before Mr.

Justice Littledale when at the bar, relative to this custom, with the view of obtaining the opinion of counsel as to whether it could be sustained as a custom at common law, and whether he should be subject to legal process if he omitted to make the distribution. It appears from that document that the custom had then prevailed for a considerable number of years, that it was mentioned in the local histories, but that its origin was lost in obscurity. The practice, whilst it lasted, seemed to have been productive of much intoxication and riot: the poor are said to have paraded the town during the whole night preceding the distribution with an incessant clamour, effectually banishing all repose; on the following morning, they marched in crowds to Mr. Grubb's house; and these assemblies often comprised many strangers from a distance, as well as parishioners.

On the doors being opened, they rushed to the feast prepared for them with so little decorum and forbearance, that often in their zeal for priority they inflicted wounds on one another with their knives. The whole of the remaining portion of Christmas day is also stated to have been spent by many of them in public houses.

Mr. Littledale was of opinion that this custom was not sustainable as a common-law right; and the Commissioners reported that they had received no sufficient evidence that the custom could be

considered as a charitable donation, the continuance of which could be enforced.—XXVI. p. 107.

COW CHARITY.

Bebington, Cheshire.

William Hulme, of Poulton, A. D. 1620, gave three cows to be disposed of by the minister and churchwardens to the poorest and godliest parishioners at eight groats a year, and this hire to be employed for the increase of parish cows. Christopher Smallshall gave three cows for the same purpose A. D. 1625, and John Briscow, of Poulton, gave £2. 10s. for the buying of a parish cow, A. D. 1661.

These extracts from the table of benefactions in the parish church are the only record of the foundation of a charity, which has been of much service to the industrious poor. An account book produced by the rector, and extending back as far as 1692, contains regular entries of the names of persons who have received the benefit of the charity. At that time their number was 29; in 1744, 31; in 1760, 22; in 1780, 16; in 1800, 10; and in 1830 it was reduced to 5; in 1835 it had risen to 8.

Each individual contributes 5s. a year for the use of his cow, and these contributions, with oc-

casional additions from small fines imposed by the magistrates, are the only sources of income to the charity.

On the 25th April in every year, the cows are exhibited for the inspection of the rector and churchwardens, and every person is required to find security for proper care and attention being paid to the cow with which he is entrusted. Each cow is branded on one horn with the initial letter of the parish, and on the other with those of the rector.—XXXI. p. 466.

COW CHARITY.

West Kirby, Cheshire.

The origin of this charity is unknown. It is traditionally said to have commenced during the rebellion in the seizure of some Irish cattle, which were given to the poor; and it has certainly existed during the greater part of the last two centuries. There is no income except the annual sum paid by the holders of the cows, as interest of money advanced to them by the trustees.

The sum of money so advanced, is generally from £3. to £4, and the amount of interest 5 per cent. The charity is managed by the trustees of the poor, and the cows are produced

for their inspection on the first Monday in June every year. There are at present twenty-four cows, and the income derived from them is between £4. and £5, which is found about sufficient to keep up the number of cows.—XXXI. p. 475.

COW COMMON CUSTOM.

Marston, Oxfordshire.

There is in this parish a piece of bushy land, containing about twenty-six acres, on which twelve of the poor have a right of common for a cow.

The Commissioners could not discover the origin of this right. These twelve cow commons are however always enjoyed by twelve poor persons, of whom the parish clerk is one. If a man having a cow common dies, his widow continues to enjoy it for her life, but it does not descend to the children; and whenever a vacancy occurs, such poor person, whether a householder or not, who obtains the votes of the greatest number of landowners, is appointed by the vestry to the common right.

The poor are at liberty either to stock the common or to let their right: the latter course is always pursued, and they individually make the best bargain they can. Each common right lets for from 25*s.* to £2 a year.—XII. p. 240.

COW CHARITY.

Minehead, Somerset.

This charity had its origin in a singular manner, arising out of the operation of an Act passed in the 18th year of Charles II., "against importing cattle from Ireland and other parts beyond the seas," wherein it was enacted, that the importation of cattle from the 2nd day of February, 1660, should be a common and public nuisance; and that if any great cattle should, from and after the day above mentioned, be imported or brought from beyond seas into the kingdom of England, it should be lawful for any constable, &c. to seize the same, and that the same should be forfeited, one half to the use of the poor of the parish where they should be seized, and the other half to the persons seizing; and by another Act, 20 Charles II., every vessel importing cattle should be liable to the like seizure, and that the monies arising from the sale thereof should be applied as aforesaid.

After the passing of these Acts, and about the year 1669, it appears that a number of great cattle were unlawfully imported from Ireland into the port of Minehead; and that the same, together with the vessel importing them, were seized and sold pursuant to the powers contained in the two Acts before referred to, and that a

moiety of the sum produced from the sale thereof was, by the direction of the churchwardens and overseers of the said parish of Minehead, invested in the purchase of a freehold estate in the parish of Ottery St. Mary in Devonshire, which was conveyed to certain persons as trustees for the parish of Minehead, and that a book was kept in the said parish called the cow money book, in which entries were made of the rents and profits received from the said charity estate, and of the distribution thereof.

In consequence of some proceedings in Chancery in 1821, it appeared that the charity property acquired by the operation of these strange Acts of Parliament consisted of a farm of twenty acres of land with the necessary buildings, and stock to the amount of £1090. 15s. in the 3 per cent. consolidated bank annuities, subsequently increased to £1197. 5s. 7d.: the profit and dividends of which are annually distributed to the poor of Minehead, in coats, cloaks, blankets and money.

The whole property is vested in trustees, who meet to consider the proper persons to be relieved under this charity about three weeks before the time of distribution, and the names of the objects thus ascertained are set down upon a list, and the funds apportioned accordingly.—XV. p. 379.

ALMS COW.

Waddesdon, Buckinghamshire.

In the Parliamentary Returns, there is a statement that the benefit of two cows was then distributed yearly amongst twenty-two people of this parish by the Duke of Marlborough.

The milk of one cow kept for that purpose by Mr. William Woodman, a tenant of the Duke, occupying Lodge Hill Farm, was in 1833 received daily by twenty-two parishioners of the parish of Waddesdon in rotation, one person receiving it in the morning and another in the evening. The distribution of the milk of the second cow was discontinued in the year 1825, the then tenant of the farm refusing at that time to keep two cows for the poor, as the allowance mentioned below had become insufficient to defray the expense. The cow is called "the Alms Cow," and when she dies or grows barren, another is provided by the tenant. The Commissioners were informed that the receiver of the Duke's estates had allowed £10 for the keep of one cow, and his predecessors had done so before him.—XXVII. p. 33.

COW CHARITY.

Woodchurch, Cheshire.

James Goodaker of Barnston in this parish, in 1525, left twenty marks to buy twenty yoke of bullocks, which were subsequently replaced by cows, and given to the poor of Woodchurch: every parishioner that had a cow or cows paying yearly for each to the overseers the sum of 2*s.* 8*d.* every Friday before Whitsunday, which hire was to be a stock for the benefit of the poor for ever.

The parish of Woodchurch includes ten townships, from each of which a trustee of the cow property is elected, whose duty it is to see that the animals are properly taken care of, and these persons are termed governors of the cows. There is an annual meeting, on which occasion the cows are produced and examined.

In 1835, the number of cows out at hire amounted to thirty-nine, producing a rent of £7. 15*s.* per annum, and the charge upon the fund in the same year was £2. 8*s.* 10*d.* which included 5*s.* to the schoolmaster, for keeping the accounts.

The charity is a decided benefit to the poor, encouraging industry and frugality, and contributing to their comfort and general welfare.—XXXI. p. 484.

REQUEST OF MILK.

Alresford, Essex.

Edmund Porter, by will, dated 27 May, 1558, directed that John Porter should have a house called Knapps, with the appurtenances, church fences and caprons, (which comprised thirty-one acres of land,) to him and his heirs, upon condition that they should give, for ever, the morning milk of two able milk beasts to the poor people of this parish every Sunday yearly, from Whitsunday to Michaelmas, 3s. 4d. on Good Friday, and a like sum on Christmas day.

This milk tribute has subsequently been commuted for a money payment, which is distributed in bread amongst the poor.—XXXII. part i. p. 653.

 CHARITY TO POOR MAIMED SOLDIERS.
Goldsmiths' Company, London.

Philip Strelley, by will 6th September, 1603, gave certain lands in Ulkerthorpe, in the county of Derby, to the Company of Goldsmiths, in trust (amongst other matters) to pay £10. per annum for ever towards the relief of poor maimed soldiers, which sum is paid generally to ten pensioners of Chelsea Hospital.—VIII. p. 333.

REQUEST TO POOR DISTRESSED SOLDIERS AND SEAMEN.

London.

Sir John Langham, of Cottesbrooke, in the county of Northampton, baronet, by his last will, dated 31st August, 1764, among other things, gave and bequeathed as follows:—

“Lastly, I give in trust to the Lord Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London £6,000 out of my stock in New South Sea annuities, towards raising a fund for the relief of poor distressed soldiers and seamen and their families.”

In respect of this charity, the sum of £7,000 stands in the 3 per cent. reduced annuities, in the names of the chamberlain, the town clerk, and the comptroller of the chamber, for the purposes of the trust as directed by the will.

The dividends of this stock, amounting to £210 per annum, are applied, at the discretion of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and the representative of the Langham family, in sums of £4 each to 27 poor soldiers and 27 seamen annually.—X. p. 182.

 HOSPITAL FOR OLD SOLDIERS.
Hereford.

Founded about 1617 by Sir Thomas Coningsby, in thankfulness to God for his defence and protection, as well in travels by sea and land, as

also against malice and practice at home, for a chaplain and 11 poor old soldiers, mariners, or serving-men of three years' service at least in the wars; one of them, being a soldier, to be the head and governor, and called the Corporal of Coningsby's Company of Old Servitors.

He appointed that, when the place of corporal should be vacant, it should be filled by any old soldier being a Coningsby, of whatever county, before any other; and if there were none such, then by some other, being a gentleman, who should write himself and be called Corporal Coningsby; and the corporal and company in all their speeches and writings, should call him Commander of the Hospital, in memory of those worthy governors that formerly ruled a military society there. And, touching the apparel of the corporal and company, Sir Thomas ordered that each should have, at his first admittance, a fustian suit of ginger colour, of a soldier-like fashion, seemly laced, a hat with a band of white, a soldier-like jerkin with half sleeves, and a square shirt, down half the thigh, with a moncado or Spanish cap, a soldier-like sword, with a belt, to wear as he goeth abroad, a cloak of red cloth, lined with red baize, and reaching to the knee, and a seemly gown of red cloth, reaching down to the ancle, lined likewise with red baize, to be worn in the Hospital and city of Hereford, the cloak to be worn in further walks or journeys.

That whensoever the Company should go to the cathedral church, or to any other public place in the city of Hereford, the chaplain and corporal should go together before the rest of the company, the chaplain with his bible, and the rest by two and two, the corporal and company wearing their swords, if the law would permit.—XXXII. pt. ii. p. 53.

SEAMEN'S FRIEND.

Wandsworth, Surrey.

Francis Millington, by will in 1692, ordered that his executor should, within one year after his decease, lay out the sum of £500 in the purchase of freehold lands, &c. within 100 miles of London, and settle the same on the Governors of Christ's Hospital, upon trust, to dispose of the profits yearly for the relief and maintenance of poor seamen or watermen of the age of 50 years or upwards, born and dwelling in the town or parish of Wandsworth, as should have lost their limb or limbs at sea, or should have been so wounded at sea that they should be disabled to get a livelihood, and in buying and making blue cloth alms coats for the same poor men, to be given to them yearly on Michaelmas day; and if there should be a want of seamen or watermen qualified as aforesaid to take up all the said rents and profits, then other seamen or

watermen or other poor men of the age of 50 years or upwards, dwelling in the town or parish of Wandsworth, or under that age, seamen or watermen being to have preference, might be admitted to receive his said gift.—XVI. p. 394.

CHARITY FOR SHIPWRECKED SEAMEN AND OTHER
GOOD WORKS.

Bamborough Castle, Northumberland.

Ye holy towers that shade the wave-worn steep,
 Long may ye rear your aged brows sublime,
 Though, hurrying silent by, relentless Time
 Assail you, and the winter whirlwinds sleep !
 For far from blazing Grandeur's crowded halls,
 Here Charity hath fix'd her chosen seat ;
 Oft list'ning tearful when the wild winds beat
 With hollow bodings round your ancient walls !
 And Pity, at the dark and stormy hour
 Of midnight, when the moon is hid on high,
 Keeps her lone watch upon the topmost tower,
 And turns her ear to each expiring cry !
 Blest if her aid some fainting wretch might save,
 And snatch him, cold and speechless, from the wave.

BOWLES.

Bamborough, or Bamburgh Castle is about five miles to the east of Belford, and three hundred and fifty-nine north from London : it stands upon a basalt rock of triangular shape, high, rugged, and abrupt on the land side, flanked

by the German ocean, and strong natural rampires of sand, matted together with sea rushes, on the east, and only accessible to an enemy on the south-east, which is guarded by a deep dry ditch, and a series of towers in the wall on each side of the gateway. Nature has mantled the rock with lichens of various rich tints, and its beetling brow is one hundred and fifty feet above the level of the sea. Its crown is girt with walls and towers, which on the land side have been nearly all repaired. The outer gateway stands between two fine old towers, with time-worn heads; twelve paces within it is a second gate, which is machicolated, and has a portcullis, and within this, on the left hand, on a lofty point of rock, is a very ancient round tower of great strength, commanding a pass subject to every annoyance from the besieged; and the castle was formerly the place of refuge for the kings, earls, and governors of Northumberland in troublesome times.

On the decease of Nathaniel Lord Crewe, Bishop of Durham, the manor and castle of Bambrough and Blanchland, in Northumberland and Durham, and also the advowsons of the churches of Bambrough and Shotley, and all other manors, advowsons, fishings, tithes, lands, &c. in Bambrough, Blanchland, Thornton, Sunderland, Shorston, Fleatham, Beadnell, Berwick,

Burton, Newham, Bradford, Fryers Lucker, Waringford, Mousin, Warrington, Tuggle, Bugle, Sheldon, Haddery, Burn, Shotley, Westhaugh-head, Westhaugh-foot, Easthaugh-head, Easthaugh-foot, Thornton, Edmunds-hill, Hunstonworth, Holy Island, and Norham, all theretofore the property of his lordship, and which he had lately purchased, and which were then of the yearly value of £1312. 13s. 5d. became vested in trustees, in pursuance of his lordship's will, dated 24th June, 1720, wherein he declared that he had devised the manors and premises before-mentioned, on trust, that the said trustees should, as occasion should require, present such persons to the churches of Bambrough and Shotley as they should think fit; and that they should pay, out of the rents and profits of the said manors, lands, &c. the sum of £20 yearly to each of twelve exhibitioners of Lincoln College, Oxford, who should be under-graduate commoners in Lincoln College, and natives of the diocese of Durham, and, for want of such natives, of Northallertonshire, Howdenshire, in the county of York, or of Leicestershire, and particularly of the parish of Newbold Verdon, or of the diocese of Oxford, whereof he was formerly bishop, or of the county of Northampton, in which he was born; and he directed that such exhibitioners should be elected by the rector and fellows of Lincoln College, and enjoy the said exhibitions

for eight years, if they should so long continue resident in college, and no longer, unless they should have leave from the rector to be absent.

To pay to the minister of Bambrough Church and his successors, £40 yearly. To the minister of St. Andrew Auckland and his successors, £30 yearly. For the augmentation of certain poor rectories, vicarages, small livings or curacies, in the diocese of Durham, the yearly sum of £10 each. To the ministers, lecturers, or curates, of the parishes of All Saints and St. Michael in Oxford, Twyford in Bucks, and Combe in Oxfordshire, and to their successors, £10 yearly to each, for catechizing youth within the same parishes. To the poor scholars of Trap and Marshall in Lincoln College, being eight in number, such annual sums as would make up their respective scholarships to the yearly sum of £10 a-piece, including what they already received on account of their respective scholarships, to the intent that they might all be alike in their yearly values.

To the Bible clerk of Lincoln College, such annual sum as would make up his salary to £10. To the rector of the said college £20 a-year; and to each of the fellows of the said college £10 yearly. To each of the alms people in the hospitals at Durham and Bishop Auckland, of the foundation of Bishop Cosin; to each of the

six almswomen in the hospital at Brackley, in the county of Northampton, founded by his grandfather Sir Thomas Crewe; and to each of the two almswomen in the hospital at Hinton, of the foundation of Elisha Heale, esq. the several yearly sums of 40s. To the schoolmaster of Newbold Verdon, £20 a-year. To the trustees of the hundred of Sparkenhoe, in Leicestershire, for the relief of the widows, orphans, and children of poor clergymen deceased, and their successors, the yearly sum of £10. To the minister and churchwardens of Daventry, £6 yearly, for the support of a charity-school. All such payments to be made quarterly to the almsmen and almswomen; the others to be half-yearly.

The sum of £200 yearly to the chancellor of the University of Oxford, to be applied to the public uses of such University. £100 a-year to the Mayor and Aldermen of Durham, to place out poor children apprentices. £20 a-year to a schoolmaster of Bishop Auckland, to teach thirty poor boys to read and write; and the further sum of £30 yearly for the clothing of such thirty poor boys. And he directed that all the residue of the surplus rents should be disposed of by his trustees for such charitable uses as he should by writing under his hand and seal appoint, and, for want of such appointment, to and for such charitable uses as the said trustees should from

time to time direct; forbidding them to apply any part thereof whatsoever for the augmentation of any of the benefactions before given by him to the University of Oxford, to Lincoln College, the City of Durham, or for any other uses or charities for the University of Oxford, Lincoln College, and the City of Durham, or suburbs thereof. And he ordered that whenever any one, or two at most, of the trustees for the time being should happen to die, the survivors should, within three months, elect one or more clergyman or clergymen, and no other persons, to be trustee or trustees in the place of him or them so dying, so as such trustees should never exceed five in number, and that the rector of Lincoln College for the time being should always be one; and that the survivors should, within three months after such election, convey the said trust estates to the use of themselves and the new trustees on the trusts aforesaid. And he further directed, that the trustees for the time being should be paid for all the charges that they should be put to in the execution of the trusts of his will, and that none of them should be answerable for the acts or defaults of the other.

It appears, from an enumeration of the estates held in trust for this charity, that the quantity of land amounts to near thirteen thousand acres, and the annual income, including dividends on

stock, rent of fishery, &c. to £8126. 8s. 8d. Out of this income, the payments made, as specifically required by Lord Crewe's will, appear to have been (with a few slight variations) about £1119. 6s. 8d. per annum, leaving an available balance of £7000 yearly, at the disposal of his trustees.

The commissioners report that the residue is applied for such charitable purposes as the trustees for the time being think most beneficial, but more particularly for such as occur within the diocese of Durham; such, at least, has been the practice from the year 1825. The principal branches of expenditure are, the augmentation of small benefices, contributions towards the building or enlarging churches and chapels, and towards the foundation and support of schools, exhibitions to young men going to either of the universities, the binding out apprentices, annuities and casual donations to distressed individuals, and subscriptions to different charitable institutions; great exertions are also made for relieving the wants of the poor in Bamburgh, and the immediate neighbourhood, and on the other estates belonging to the charity.

As to Shipwrecks.

The situation of Bamburgh Castle upon an exposed and dangerous coast, has also induced

the trustees to adopt every expedient in their power for preventing shipwrecks, and for saving the lives and property of persons who are cast upon those shores.

The manor of Bamburgh, and a considerable part of the trust estate, is situated on the coast of a bay formed by Holy Island and North Sunderland Point, which are distant from each other about eight miles. This bay is fully exposed to the north-east wind, which is frequently very tempestuous, and the danger to the navigation is much increased by the numerous islands, which extend several miles, the nearest being about two miles from the shore. The accidents which often occurred on this inclement coast attracted the notice of the trustees, and principally induced them to make Bamburgh Castle a place of occasional residence. And to further facilitate their good intentions, Dr. John Sharp, one of the trustees, by indenture of bargain and sale, bearing date, 18th November, 1778, granted certain premises, of the annual value of £40. 17s. and by will, dated 17th April, 1792, bequeathed stock, producing £69 per annum, (all of which he vested in the trustees of Lord Crewe's charity,) for and towards the reparations, amendment and support of the great tower of Bamburgh Castle, and in such part or parts thereof, and in such order and form, as he directed, more particularly to keep in

repair the conductor, from the gold point above the said tower to the bottom of the well, and the chain which hung down into the said well, the roof and chimnies of the great tower, the windows of the tower, the fire-proof work in the ceilings of such tower, the great clock in the south turret, the well machine, bath, pumps, troughs, cisterns, water-pipes and drains, and to uphold the said tower and furniture, in such manner as the said trustees should direct, for ever.

The sunken rocks and shifting sands of this coast had long been a terror to the mariners ; and the thought of this induced Dr. Sharp to fit up the great tower for the reception of suffering seamen, and property, which might be rescued from the fury of the ocean.

The trustees have ready in the castle such implements as are required to give assistance to stranded vessels ; a nine pounder is placed at the bottom of the great tower, which gives signals to ships in distress, and, in case of wreck, announces the same to the custom-house officers, and their servants, who hasten to prevent the wreck being plundered. A constant watch is kept at the top of the great tower, whence signals are also made to the fishermen of Holy Island, as soon as any vessel is discovered to be in distress, when the fishermen immediately put off to its

assistance, and the signals are so regulated as to point out the particular direction in which the vessel lies ; and this is partly indicated by flags by day, and rockets at night. Owing to the size and fury of the breakers, it is generally impossible for boats to put off from the mainland in a severe storm, but such difficulty occurs but rarely in putting off from Holy Island.

In addition to these arrangements for mariners in distress, men on horseback constantly patrol the coast, a distance of eight miles, from sun set to sun rise, every stormy night. Whenever a case of shipwreck occurs, it is their duty to forward intelligence to the castle without delay, and, as a further inducement to this, premiums are often given for the earliest notice of such distress. During the continuance of fogs, which are frequent and sudden, a gun is fired at short intervals. By these means, many lives are saved, and an asylum is offered to shipwrecked persons in the castle. The trustees also covenant with the tenants of the estate, that they shall furnish carts, horses and men, in proportion to their respective farms, to protect and bring away whatever can be saved from the wrecks. There are likewise the necessary tackle and instruments kept for raising vessels which have sunk, and whatever goods may be saved are deposited in the castle. The bodies of those who are lost,

are decently interred at the expense of this charity,—in fact, to sailors on that perilous coast Bamburgh Castle is what the convent of St. Bernard is to travellers in the Alps.

Schools.

In the castle, two rooms are appropriated, the one for a boys' school, and the other for a school for girls. The master of the boys has apartments in the castle, and receives a salary of £60 per annum for teaching the boys, and £15 for attending the girls' school two hours every day, and teaching them writing and accounts.

The mistress of the girls' school, has also apartments in the castle, and a salary of £30 per annum. To these schools, all children of poor persons of Bamburgh are admitted, and taught, on the national system, without any charge, and are supplied with books and stationery. At the time of the commissioners' inquiry, in October 1829, there were upwards of one hundred and seventy scholars, and in the winter the number is considerably larger. The annual expense of these schools, including books and rewards to the scholars, may be stated at about £150 or £160.

Thirty girls are provided with board, lodging, washing, and clothing : they are admitted between the ages of seven and nine, and allowed to remain till they are sixteen, or fit to go out to service.

Two schools are likewise supported in Blanchland; that for boys kept by a master who is allowed £50 per annum, and the use of a house belonging to the charity estate rent-free; and a school for girls, kept by a mistress, who receives a salary of £20, and has the use of a house and garden. In these schools all the poor children of Blanchland are admitted, and instructed without charge. The scholars are also supplied with books and stationery gratis.

There is also a library in the castle, and the books are kept in a room which is opened to the public under certain regulations, and lent to persons residing in the neighbourhood.

Apprentices.

By a regulation of the trustees, it is ordered that £100 per annum should be applied in apprenticing 10 children of either sex from the schools of Newcastle, Gateshead, Sunderland, Bishop Wearmouth, and South Shields; such children not to be less than 14 years of age, and bound to members of the Church of England; also, that £15 should be allowed to the sons and daughters of clergymen within the diocese of Durham, in addition to the fee given by the corporation of the sons of the clergy.

Annuities and casual donations.

Applications are frequently made to the trustees on behalf of persons in distress, and a sum

of money, or an annuity, is granted, as circumstances seem to require ; but no such grant is made except upon petition, nor until the truth of the facts expressed therein is ascertained.

Exhibitions.

On application being made to the trustees on behalf of any person going to either of the universities, if the party appears a fit object, the yearly sum of £20 is allowed him, and occasionally a donation is made in addition.

Relief of the poor at Bamburgh, &c.

The trustees have adopted the following modes of assisting the poor in Bamburgh and the neighbourhood.

In 1797 a shop was established for the sale of meal and flour, for which purpose a quantity of barley, oats, and peas are purchased of the tenants of the charity estates at the market price, each tenant being obliged to furnish a proportional quantity.

The grain is ground at a windmill, erected close to the castle walls, and the meal is sold, to such of the poor as are recommended by any respectable neighbour, at little more than the prime cost of the grain before it was ground.

Proper regulations are made for preventing persons from purchasing for sale, by limiting them to the quantity required for their respective families.

The trustees have also established a shop for cheese, grocery, and articles of that nature, from which the poor are supplied in the same manner as at the meal shop.

There is also a dispensary and surgery in the castle, and a surgeon is appointed with a salary for attending twice a week, and giving advice and surgical assistance and dispensing medicine to the poor, who apply under a recommendation from any respectable inhabitant in the neighbourhood.

A midwife is engaged to attend poor lying-in women in the neighbourhood, and there is a supply of child-bed linen at the castle, which is lent out to such persons as are fit objects of the charity, each of whom receives at the same time *2s. 6d.*

There is also distributed to the poor of Bamburgh milk from the trustees' farm nearly throughout the year; and every Christmas, beef to the amount of about £20 is given to them; coal is delivered yearly to the poor of Bamburgh, North Sunderland, and Blanchland.

About £160 per annum are also distributed to the poor of Bamburgh and other places where the estates are situate, in weekly or quarterly payments.

Sea Coast.

A small harbour belonging to the charity estate at North Sunderland is the only one on this

coast between Shields and the Frith-of-Forth in which vessels can obtain shelter from the north-east wind. It has been the object of the trustees to maintain and improve this harbour, as well for the security of vessels engaged in the coasting trade, as for the benefit of the adjoining country, and the increase of the revenues of the charity, by facilitating the export of lime and corn from thence, and for the encouragement of the herring fishery, which is now an increasing source of profit to the poorer inhabitants.

The harbour has consequently been gradually improved at a considerable expense by lengthening the pier, and a breakwater is being constructed as a shelter from the south-east; and the trustees have been solicited by a large portion of masters of vessels navigating this coast to proceed with these improvements. They have accordingly had a plan and estimate made for a still further enlargement of the harbour, the expense of which will probably not fall short of £5000; and they are anxious to have these plans executed, considering that, under all those circumstances, of which by their local knowledge they seem competent to form a correct judgment, the application of the funds of the charity to this purpose, even to the extent above mentioned, would in every respect accord with the spirit of the trust reposed in them.

The sum laid out in the harbour in the last three years, including £663. 10s. 11d. expended in building houses on the quay side, is £1631. 7s. 10d., in addition to the cost of the ordinary repairs, and a salary of £20 paid to the Harbour Master, amounting to between £60 and £70 per annum.

The following is a summary of the average expenditure during the last three years, viz:—

	£.	s.	d.
Specific payments under Lord			
Crewe's will	1119	6	8
Augmentation of small livings	293	6	8
Building churches, &c.	295	0	0
Payments to schools	263	5	0
Schools at Bamburgh	160	0	0
Expenses of boarders at ditto	257	8	3
Blanchland school	100	0	0
Building schools	116	0	0
Exhibitions	60	0	0
Apprentices	75	0	0
Annuities and donations	517	14	8
Subscriptions and donations to charitable institutions	450	18	0
Expense of meal shop	85	0	0
Ditto surgery, midwife, &c.	180	0	0
To the poor of Bamburgh, Blanchland, &c. in meat, coals, and money	200	0	0

FOR WIDOWS OF DROWNED MEN. 95

	£	s.	d.
Assistance in cases of wreck	21	0	0
Ordinary expenses of Sunderland har- bour	65	0	0
Establishment at Bamburgh Castle	570	0	0
Allowance to trustees	66	0	0
Incidental expenses	568	0	0
	<hr/>		
	£5,462	19	3

So extensive a charity to flow from a private bounty is singular; men in former ages were canonized for trifling acts of benevolence compared to this. But, although the resources were given by Lord Crewe, yet the disposition was not of his arrangement. To the benevolent heart of the Rev. Dr. Sharp, the chief part of the blessings derived from his lordship's will is to be attributed.—Mostly from XXIII. p. 130—148.

CHARITY FOR WIDOWS OF DROWNED MEN.

St. Mary, Dover.

Thomas Pattenden, by will, dated 27th February, 1817, and proved in the Prerogative Court, gave to the minister and churchwardens of the parish of St. Mary £850 three per cent. reduced, to be transferred into their names, free from legacy duty, upon trust out of the dividends to repair the head stones about his family grave in the churchyard of

St. Mary, with the inscriptions, and fence round the same ; and to apply the remainder every half year equally amongst six poor widows whose husbands had been drowned, always distributing and continuing it to those who should have the most lately lost their husbands by such misfortune ; the said minister and churchwardens first satisfying themselves that the said widows were not possessed of £100 in property, over and above their household furniture and wearing apparel ; but no widow to be excluded from the benefit of this charity by occasion of others becoming entitled to it, until she had received at the least the amount of one year's benefaction ; and he desired that the said minister and churchwardens should, every half year, take to themselves out of the said dividends the sum of 5*s.* each, as a compensation for their trouble in attending to the repair and distribution before mentioned ; and that this clause of his will should be hung up in a conspicuous part of the vestry-room of St. Mary's church, to perpetuate the remembrance of his bequest.—XXX. p. 545.

SHIPWRECKS.

Queenborough, Kent.

It is stated on the table of benefactions, and in the charity book kept by the corporation of Queenborough, that two gentlemen, names unknown,

who got ashore at this place after shipwreck, gave £40 to the corporation, the interest to be applied for an annual sermon, and for behoof of the poor.

The corporation pay £2 a year as the interest of it, out of which £1. 1s. is paid to the officiating minister for preaching a sermon, and the residue is distributed to poor widows.—XXX. p. 476.

TRAVELLERS' REST.

Coleshill, Warwickshire.

George Butler, by will, Sept. 2d, 1591, gave his house at the lower end of the town of Coleshill, called the almshouse, also a house and lands in Gilson, to the uses following, viz. that the rents thereof should be employed to keep the said almshouse in repair, and buy furniture when wanting; that the feoffees, or constables, with their consent, might lodge any poor travellers that should desire it in the said almshouse; that none should be suffered to lodge there more than one night, except great cause shewn; that care be taken women and men lodge not near together; that some persons be permitted to dwell there rent-free, to wash the house and furniture, and to take care of the poor lodgers; that the overplus of the rent be employed to some charitable use.

The house has lately been rebuilt, and in the course of one year 1300 travellers have received the benefit of the charity by one night's lodging.—XXIX. p. 1030.

CHARITABLE LIGHT
FOR SUCH AS WALK IN DARKNESS.

London.

John Wardall, by will, dated 29th August, 1656, gave to the Grocers' Company a tenement called the White Bear in Walbrook, to the intent that they should yearly, within thirty days after Michaelmas, pay to the churchwardens of St. Botolph, Billingsgate, £4, to provide a good and sufficient iron and glass lantern, with a candle, for the direction of passengers to go with more security to and from the water-side, all night long, to be fixed at the north-east corner of the parish church of St. Botolph, from the feast day of St. Bartholomew to Lady Day; out of which sum £1 was to be paid to the sexton for taking care of the lantern.—VI. p. 276.

This annuity is now applied to the support of a lamp in the place prescribed, which is lighted with gas.—XXIII. p. 194.

A LIGHT FOR NIGHT TRAVELLERS.

St. Michael, Crooked Lane, London.

John Cooke, by will, dated 12 September, 1662, gave to the churchwardens and vestrymen of this parish £76, to be laid out to the most profit and advantage, for various uses, and, amongst them,

To the parish clerk, on condition that he should weekly on a Saturday sweep and make clean the aisle of the church called Fishmongers' Aisle, 6s. 8d.

For the maintenance of a lantern and candle, to be of eight in the pound at the least, to be kept and hanged out at the corner of St. Michael's Lane, next Thames Street, from Michaelmas to Lady Day, between the hours of nine and ten o'clock at night, until the hours of four or five in the morning, for affording light to passengers going through Thames Street, or St. Michael's Lane, £1.—XXXII. pt. ii. p. 343.

BELL RINGING AT NIGHT, FOR THE GUIDE AND DIRECTION OF TRAVELLERS.

Woodstock, Oxfordshire.

Amongst the bequests of John Carey to this borough, is one to the mayor and commonalty, to pay 10s. on Lady Day yearly, to the clerk or sexton of the town, or such other person as

should be appointed to ring the eight o'clock bell at night, for the guide and direction of travellers; and in case they should refuse to ring the bell in manner aforesaid, then the said 10s. should cease to be paid until some person should be appointed to ring the said bell, who should duly ring it.

The corporation pay 10s. to the clerk, for ringing the eight o'clock bell, together with an addition from their own funds.—XII. p. 328.

WASHING MOLLY GRIME.

Glentham, Lincolnshire.

There is a yearly rent-charge of 7s. issuing out of an estate at Glentham, late the property of Mr. William Thorpe, who paid the same until about 1832, when he became bankrupt, and the property was sold without any reservation of this rent-charge.

It is commonly reputed to have been left to seven old maids of Glentham, on condition of their washing a tomb in Glentham church, called Molly Grime, with water brought from Newell Well.

These conditions were complied with, until the rent-charge ceased to be paid, the figure being regularly washed on every Good Friday, and the

old maids receiving 1s. each, for performing this service.—XXXII. pt. iv. p. 410.

BEQUEST TO MOST INDIGENT, POOREST, AGED,
DECREPIT, MISERABLEST PAUPERS.

Hallaton, Leicestershire.

Valentine Goodman, by will, dated in 1684, bequeathed £800 to be laid out in land, and the profits thereof given to the "most indigent, poorest, aged, decrepit, miserablest paupers," viz. six from Easton, four from Medbourn, four from Hallaton, and two from Blaston; and if any part of the money (was) employed for easing town levies, or not according to the intent of the testator, then he declared that the gift should cease, and the money be employed for the redemption of Turkish captives.

The produce of the land in 1822, 1823, and 1824, is reported at £100 each year.

The names of the recipients are regularly entered in a book, with the amount paid to each.—XXXII. pt. v. p. 235.

BACHELORS' MONEY.

Bowes, Yorkshire.

Poor, poor old bachelors.—*Comic Song.*

The sum of £60, given by some person unknown, the interest thereof to be paid to two

or one of the oldest bachelors in the township of Bowes, was from time to time placed out in different sums at interest, but has all been lost through insolvency, except £15 now in the hands of Mr. John Bailey, of Brough, in Westmoreland.—VII. p. 616.

POMPOSITITY.

Braughing, Hertfordshire.

Matthew Wall, by will, in 1595, charged all his lands and tenements in the parish of Braughing, with the yearly payment of twenty shillings, to be distributed by the minister and churchwardens on St. Matthew's day, in the following manner:—

To the sexton, to make up his grave yearly, and to ring the bell, 1s. 10d. To twenty boys, between the age of six and sixteen, twenty groats. To ten aged and impotent people of the parish, ten three-pences. To sweep the path from his house to the church gate every year, 1s. To the crier of Stortford, to make proclamation yearly, on Ascension and Michaelmas day, that he left his estate to a Matthew, or William Wall, as long as the world should endure, 8d. To the parish clerk at Hallingbury for the same, 8d. and to the minister and churchwardens, to see his will performed, 5s.

The tenant of the estate, charged with this annuity, (which is situate at Green End,) regularly pays the 20s. to the schoolmaster, by whom it is distributed, according to the directions of the will.—XXIX. p. 277.

FUND TO BUILD A BRIDGE, OR FOUND AN HOSPITAL
FOR BASTARD CHILDREN.

Bristol.

By will, dated 1st December, 1753, Mr. William Vick, merchant of Bristol, gave the sum of £1000, to be secured to the society of merchant adventurers of that city, upon the trusts thereafter mentioned, (that was to say,) whereas, he was of opinion, that the erecting a stone bridge over the river Avon, from Clifton Down, in Gloucestershire, to the opposite side of Leigh Down, in the county of Somerset, for carriages, as well as horse and foot passengers, toll free, would be of great public utility;* and he had heard and believed, that the building of such bridge was practicable, and might be completed for less than £10,000; for the advancing and effecting of so useful a work, and for the encouragement of

* An iron suspension bridge is now in the course of erection, under the direction of I. Brunel, jun. esq.

contributions thereto, he directed that the said sum of £1000 should be placed out at interest by the society, until the same should accumulate or increase to the said sum of £10,000, which, when effected, the society was to expend so much thereof as should be necessary in erecting such stone bridge, and in defraying the needful expences thereabout, either for obtaining an Act of Parliament to be enabled to carry on and complete such work, or for making satisfaction to the proprietors of Rownham Ferry, or for purchasing such ferry, if either should be necessary, or otherwise; and the surplus, if any, after the building and completing of such bridge, he directed to be applied by the said society to such charitable use as they should think proper. And his will further was, that the society should be at liberty to lay out the said trust money at any time, in case other monies should be given, which, together with the amount of the then trust estate, should be deemed sufficient for such undertaking.

Provided also, and his will expressly was, that in case the said society should decline or refuse to lay out the trust money for the uses aforesaid, when such accumulation was effected, or that the erecting such bridge was impracticable, unuseful, or improper, then he gave such trust money to the mayor, burgesses, and com-

monalty of the city of Bristol, £4000 whereof to be lent, free of interest, to young, honest, and industrious clothworkers, residents of the parish of Minchinhampton, in the county of Gloucester, and of Bristol, and the other £6000 to be applied towards the founding, erecting, and maintaining an hospital for illegitimate children, and to be added to any subscription for that much wanted charity, under and subject to such regulations as the said chamber of Bristol should think proper, &c.

The total amount of accumulated principal and interest on the 14th October, 1821, was reported to be £4139. 9s. 8d., and it was estimated, that, supposing the interest on this sum to continue to be accumulated in a compound interest ratio, that it will amount to £10,076. 10d. on the 14th October, 1851.

The commissioners were subsequently informed, that, in consequence of suggestions which had emanated from them, a higher rate of interest had been computed on by the society, which was carried back in the calculations to 1782, and that thereby the accumulated principal and interest, (which appeared to be in the company's hands,) on 2nd October, 1821, was £6074. 17s. 5d.
—VIII. p. 636.

GROWING BUT WHIMSICAL, YET USEFUL CHARITY.

Brixton, Devonshire.

On the estate called the Parish Park, there is a considerable quantity of fine elm timber, standing on ground in extent about half an acre, which for many years was a playing-place for children, in which ground a stone is preserved with the following inscription :—

“This colony of elms, regularly disposed into walks, was planted in November, 1677, by Edward Fortescue, of Spridleston, esq. churchwarden, with the approbation and contribution of the majority of estated parishioners, to the intent that (when perfect in growth and sold) lands may be purchased with the money, for relief of the poor of this parish; and that posterity, reaping the advantage of our benefaction, may be encouraged to provide for more successions, by substituting others in the room of these.”

Cyrus ad Lysand.

Multæ etiam istarum arborum meâ manu sunt satæ,
Nemo sibi solum natus, nilque libero dignius.

May Mithridates' spirit still affright
Such as our living galleries despite;
Cleomenes' and Agamemnon's fate
Seize such as think not sacred what is sate,
And enemies deem'd to poor, to church, and state.

It appears that the following sums have been received from this estate. In 1810, £9. 8s., in

1811, £15, in 1814, £9. 10s., in 1819, £82. 2s.
—V. p. 208.

CURIOUS DRESS ORDERED TO BE WORN BY THE
MEN IN EDWARD STRODE'S ALMSHOUSES.

Shepton Mallet, Somerset.

In this establishment, for four poor old men, Protestants, of the parish of Shepton Mallet, founded in 1699, Mr. Strode orders that each such poor old man should, at his and their first being placed in any of the four houses, have

A new grey hat, edged about with red narrow silk galloon lace : the hat, so laced, to cost 5s. and no more.

One plain neckcloth and dowlas shirt, both to cost 5s.

A loose-bodied coat, with the letter E cut large in blue cloth, and well sewed on the right sleeve, and the letter S on the left sleeve, plain to be seen. And a pair of large breeches made of red cloth, at 6s. the yard.

A large waistcoat made of white cloth, or linsey woolsey, of 1s. 4d. a yard.

A pair of blue, strong, yarn stockings, of 1s. 6d. a pair.

A strong pair of tussel leather shoes, at 3s. 6d. a pair, with a pair of blue leather points to tie the shoes.

Each old man to be new habited accordingly once in every two years against Easter.

The Commissioners report that this order is complied with, at a cost of about £13.—III. p. 404.

WHIMSICAL PARTIALITY FOR NINE.

Danby, Yorkshire.

Samuel Rabanke, by indenture of bargain and sale, enrolled, dated 24th February, 1631, conveyed to Thomas Reeve and Samuel Pruddom, and the heirs of Pruddom, certain premises, upon trust that they and the heirs and assigns of the said Samuel Pruddom, out of the rents and profits of such premises, upon the 9th day of June, or the 9th day of December, from the day of his death, and upon every 9th day of every month for ever thereafter, cause to be paid to nine poor people, to be nominated and elected as thereafter mentioned, 9d. a week, or 3s. a month; and should also, upon every 9th day of December, pay the sum of 10s. to some godly and able preacher, who should on that day yearly preach the Word of God in the parish church of Danby; and that the said Samuel Pruddom, his

heirs and assigns, should, after the sermon, give and deliver one peck of rye to every such of the said nine poor people, as well to those who were present during the service, as also to such others as should be absent by reason of sickness or otherwise; and as to the choice of the poor persons, he directed that, on the 9th December, the curates, churchwardens, and overseers of the poor of Danby, should nominate eighteen poor persons, men or women, of Danby, six by the curate, six by the churchwardens, and six by the overseers, of whom nine should be immediately elected by Pruddom, or his heirs or assigns, but, if they were absent, then such nine persons should be chosen on the next Sabbath day, by the curate and overseers, or any three of them, whereof the curate should be one; and that, if there were not so many poor persons of the poorest sort and best report in the parish of Danby, the number should be supplied out of Glaisdale; so, however, as such number should not exceed three.

The sum of £18. 10s. a year is paid on account of this charity, out of lands called Howe Farm, Castleton and Bottom or Dale Head, in this parish. £17. 11s. of the money is distributed in monthly payments of 3s. each month, to nine poor persons of Danby, 10s. are paid to the minister for a sermon which is preached on the

20th December, the day on which the rent-charge is paid ; and, in lieu of a peck of rye, it has been customary, for many years past, to give a shilling to each of the poor persons, which makes up the present amount of the payment.—VII. p. 715.

FORMALITY WITHOUT SUBSTANCE.

All Saints, Leicester.

By indenture, dated 1st February, 1611, William Norrice, in consideration of the love which he bore to the parish of All Saints, wherein he was born, and had lived by the mercy of God for fourscore and nine years, and for the charitable devotion which he had to the poor people of the said parish, granted a yearly rent of 15*s.* issuing out of certain garden-ground in or near Soar Lane, upon the conditions that the minister and churchwardens should yearly, upon the Sunday next before the feast of St. Bartholomew the Apostle, in the afternoon, meet and elect forty-one of the poorest people inhabiting in the parish of All Saints, and deliver a list of their names in writing to the clerk of the parish, and cause him to give notice that all persons whose names were contained in that note should personally attend evening prayer on St. Bartholomew's day, and that the minister should on the said feast day, after the second lesson at evening prayer, exhort

the people to praise God for his mercy in providing for the poor, and should make choice of some fit psalm for that purpose, desiring the people to sing that psalm with him ; and after evening prayer the minister and churchwardens should cause the clerk to call the said forty-one people into some convenient place in the church, calling each by his name, and in a loud voice, and to give each 4*d.* and the minister and churchwardens and clerk were to have 4*d.* each ; all which being satisfied, the said poor should depart, glorifying God : and in default of all this formality, the annuity should cease. It has not been received for many years.—XXXII. pt. v. p. 103.

 WHIMSICAL PREDILECTION FOR COLOURS.

Melbourne, Derbyshire.

GREEN.

Henry *Greene*, by will, dated 22nd December, 1679, gave to his sister Catharine *Greene*, during her life, all his lands in Melbourne and Newton, and after her decease to others, in trust, upon condition that the said Catharine *Greene* should give four *green* waistcoats to four poor women every year, such four *green* waistcoats to be lined with *green* galloon lace, and to be delivered to the said poor women on or before the 21st

December yearly, that they might be worn on Christmas day.

GRAY.

Thomas *Gray*, by his will, bearing date the 25th April, 1691, directed his executrix, *Mary Gray*, and others, to lay out £200 in the purchase of lands; and out of the profits of such land to lay out six nobles yearly to buy six waistcoats of *grey* cloth, edged with blue galloon lace, and 40*s.* to buy three coats of *grey* cloth, to be faced with baize; and that four of the said waistcoats should be given yearly to four poor widows or other poor women living in Castle Donnington, who were to be of good behaviour and endeavour to live honestly; and the other two waistcoats to two poor widows or women of like behaviour, of the parish of Melbourne: and two of the coats to be given yearly to two poor men of Castle Donnington, and the other to a poor man of Melbourne. And he also directed that copies of his will should be entered in the Town books of Castle Donnington and Melbourne, and also hung up in the respective churches, and that the same should be read yearly on St. Thomas's day, or the following Sunday, after prayers, for the performance of which he directed that the ministers of the said parish should have five shillings a piece; and he further directed that fifteen dozen

of bread should be given to the poor of Castle Donnington, and ten dozen to the poor of Melbourne, yearly, on St. Andrew's day; and if any residue of the rents and profits of the said land should arise, the same should be laid out for the benefit of the poor children of Castle Donnington and Melbourne, in the proportion of two-thirds for the former, and one-third for the latter place, towards putting them out as apprentices.—XVII. p. 296.

CHARITABLE MEMORY.

South Pool, Devonshire.

Leonard Dare, by will, 28th Nov. 1611, gave a rent-charge of twenty shillings per annum, payable out of Molescombe Quarries, in the parish of Stokenham, for a term of 2900 years, to be paid quarterly to the poor of South Pool; and he directed that the wardens of the parish of South Pool should on Christmas day, Lady day, St. John's day, and Michaelmas day, buy, bring, and lay on his tomb-stone three-score penny loaves of good and wholesome bread made of wheat, and should then and there distribute the same to the poor of that parish; and in default or neglect on any of the feasts aforesaid, the testator gave the twenty shillings yearly to the mayor and burgesses of Totness.—V. p. 188.

CHARITABLE MEMORY.

Bolton, Westmorland.

There is a school-house at Bolton, which it is understood was built by subscription; and by entries in the school-book, and inscriptions in the chapel, it appears that the first endowment to the school was a legacy of £40 left by James Hanson, by will, 1st July, 1721, for the teaching four or more of the poorest children of Bolton. This and another benefaction by the same person, and the gift of £10 by his wife Elizabeth, for the same purpose, is thus recorded on the Chapel wall:

“ In memory of James Hanson, late Clerk of Bolton,
interred July 29th,

Who to this Town poor out of his store

His last will makes relation;

Ten pounds he gave, and *Fourty* more,

For children's education.

* * * *

Aged 79, Annoq. Dom. 1721.”

“ Elizabeth, his relict, she adds 10*l.* to the school charity.”

VII. p. 593.

CHARITABLE MEMORY—FAMILY OSTENTATION.

Dacre, Cumberland.

John Troutbeck, by will, 27th October, 1787, gave to the poor of Dacre, the place of his nati-

vity, £200, the interest thereof to be distributed every Easter Sunday on the family tombstone in Dacre churchyard, provided the day should be fine, by the hands and at the discretion of a Troutbeck of Blencowe, if there should be any living, those next in descent having prior right of distribution; and if none should be living that would distribute the same, then by a Troutbeck, as long as one could be found that would take the trouble of it; otherwise by the minister and churchwardens of the parish for the time being; that not less than five shillings should be given to any individual, and that none should be considered entitled to it that received alms, or any support from the parish.—V. p. 132.

BELLROPE LAND.

Thrupton, Herefordshire.

It appears, from an entry in an old book of the parish, that an acre of land called the Bell Acre, situate in a field called Windmill, was heretofore given towards the buying of bell ropes annually.

This land is inclosed with the glebe, and let to the Rector, at a yearly rent of 5*s.*—XXXII. pt. ii. p. 309.

UNKNOWN DONOR.

Husborne Crawley, Bedfordshire.

In this parish there is an estate consisting of a house, buildings, yard, and 53 acres of land, of the annual value of 84*l.* the original settlement or acquisition of which is unknown. The rent is applied under the direction of the minister, churchwardens, and overseers of the poor, for the repair of the parish church, steeple, bells, and church clock, and a part of the churchyard fences, in allowing 5*l.* yearly to the surveyors of the highways, to provide one pint of ale per day to each of the labourers performing statute duty; £4 once in seven years, on Rogation day, to defray the expence of perambulating and keeping up the boundaries of the parish; and the remainder is distributed in July and December yearly, among all the poor, according to the size of their families, who are not assisted out of the rates, except in cases of extreme distress, and in apprenticing poor children.—X. p. 10.

STIMULANT TO LEARNING.

Little Ouseburn, Yorkshire.

The sum of two shillings and sixpence yearly is paid from Dorothy Sutton's legacy, for a reward to the child who is found to repeat the Catechism the best on examination in the church at Easter,

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in pursuance of Mrs. Sutton's will, and which direction is duly complied with.—IV. p. 429.

ENCOURAGING GOOD BEHAVIOUR IN BOYS.

St. James, Westminster.

Ann Newton, by a testamentary paper bearing various dates between 1806 and 1811, afterwards proved as her will, gave to the parish school of boys attending the chapel called St. James's Chapel, £1000 to be placed in the 5 per cents.; and she desired that the interest might be given yearly to bind that boy apprentice who by the universal voice of all the boys and master, should have conducted himself the best, by his religious conduct, mild deportment and industry, to some beneficial trade; and she directed her will to be written in golden letters on a board, and placed in the school.

The sum of 429*l.* 19*s.* 3*d.* only came into the hands of the parish authorities, and a notice had been given that the trustees intended on the 7th May, 1836, and on that day in each succeeding year, to apply the interest as an apprentice-fee with one of the boys in the school, and recommending every boy to endeavour by his conduct to entitle himself to the above reward.—XXX. p. 823.

SINGULAR MODE OF DISTRIBUTING CHARITY.

Bulkeley, Cheshire.

The sum of nineteen shillings and twopence was the proportion of certain consolidated charities to which this township was entitled. The mode of distributing it appears not a little singular. The overseer had the money changed into pence and half pence, and placed in a peck measure, inviting all the poor to take a handful, which was done. Those who came last of course got none.—XXXI. p. 587.

BENEVOLENCE ENCOURAGED.

Cirencester, Gloucestershire.

Mr. Richard Mathews, who, by will, about 1727, gave 150*l.* to be laid out in the purchase of freehold lands, and directed the profits thereof to be applied yearly for putting out one poor boy of that town to be an apprentice in the city of London. Ordered, that each of the poor boys so put forth, should subscribe the following indorsement upon their several indentures; viz.

“ I do hereby solemnly promise, in the presence of Almighty God, to the Trustees of Mr. Richard Mathews, deceased, that if it shall please the Lord in mercy to raise me to any competent or considerable estate in the world, that I will re-

member to give monies for binding forth other poor boy or boys, as the said Mr. Richard Mathews hath done for me."

The application of the principal sum of 150*l.* has been so well conducted, that it now produces 27*l.* per annum, arising out of lands purchased therewith at South Cerney, in Gloucestershire.—XX. p. 71.

DOMINE, QUIS HABITABIT?

Cliffe Pypard, Wilts.

In the last will and testament of Thomas Spackman, is as follows :

" June 5th, 1675. I do charge my lands with twenty-one shillings by the year, and to continue for ever; viz. one shilling to the minister of the parish, to mind him of his duty in catechizing the children; twenty shillings to the poor of the parish yearly, to be given them at the church, viz. five shillings on St. Thomas's day, five shillings on the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, five shillings on St. John the Baptist's, and five shillings on St. Matthew's Day; my will is, that twenty poor people do receive three pence a piece, and that they be at the church at the beginning of prayers, or else to have no share; if the number be not twenty, then the remains to be given to those that are best deserving; and if

they can, let them sing the 15th Psalm; now if the minister be a good man, he will be careful to see this my will performed, for the honour of the church, that at this day is almost destitute."

The land charged with this payment is in the tithing of Broad Town, and the property of William Ruddle Brown, a farmer. The sum has been for many years distributed in bread.—XXIX. p. 1296.

BOUNDARY CUSTOM.

Clifton Reynes, Buckinghamshire.

It is stated in the Parliamentary Returns in 1786, that some land, then let at 12*l.* per annum, was given by Sir Hugh Kite for the poor of this parish. And it appears, from a book in the custody of the minister, dated 1821, compiled by an antiquary for a history of the county, that the rector holds a close of pasture-ground called Kites, which had been formerly given to support a lamp burning in the church of Clifton Reynes, but which was subject to a charge of finding one small loaf, a piece of cheese, and a pint of ale, to every married person, and half a pint for every unmarried person, resident in Clifton, on the feast of St. Stephen, when they walked the parish boundaries in Rogation week. The close was annexed to the rectory in the 12th Elizabeth.

In the month of January a distribution is made by the Rector to all parishioners of the parish. Each person receives a twopenny loaf, a piece of cheese, and a pint of ale, if married, and half a pint if single.—XXVII. p. 133.

STEPHENING MONEY.

Drayton Beauchamp, Buckinghamshire.

There was formerly an usage in the parish called Stephening. All the inhabitants used to go on St. Stephen's day to the Rectory, and eat as much bread and cheese, and drink as much ale as they chose, at the expense of the Rector.

The usage gave rise to so much rioting that the late Rector discontinued it, and distributed an annual sum instead, in proportion to the number of claimants; but the number of inhabitants increased so considerably, that about the year 1827 he was induced to withhold the annual payments. The people have sometimes since come up to the rectory to ask for the Stephening money, but have always been refused.

Nothing is known concerning the origin or duration of this usage, nor was any evidence produced to the Commissioners, showing any legal obligation on the part of the Rector to continue the above practice.—XXVII. p. 83.

GANG MONDAY LAND.

Edgcott, Buckinghamshire.

There is about an acre of land so called, in respect of which Robert Marcham, Esq. pays the overseers about 3*l.* yearly.

This used formerly to be distributed in cakes and beer to the tenants, two cakes each, and as much beer as they chose to drink at the time; the residue was distributed to all poor persons who came for it, whether parishioners or not. Since the inclosure of the parish, this sum has been distributed about Christmas, in coals, to all poor householders, parishioners, who come for it, in equal shares.—XXVII. p. 71.

SINGULAR CONDITION ANNEXED TO A BEQUEST.

Great Gonerby, Lincolnshire.

William Minta, who died 8th June, 1724, gave 5*l.* to the poor of Gonerby, to be distributed in bread to sixteen aged people, on Good Friday, yearly, a “three-penny dole a piece,” and the Clerk was “to toll the bell at three o’clock, and to read the Epistle and Gospel, and sing the Lamentation of a Sinner,” and to have one shilling reward.—XXXII. part iv. p. 263.

SINGULAR ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY.

Upper Holker, Lancashire.

This parish possesses five acres of land, which were bought by the inhabitants with the sum of 185½ guineas, which were found in the pocket of a travelling beggar who died in 1799, in a lodging house in Upper Holker.—III. p. 194.

PAYMENT BY THE JUDGES OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS.

London, St. Dunstan, Fleet Street.

It is stated in an old parish book, that “The reverend and learned Judges of the Court of Common Pleas have time out of mind allowed towards the relief of the poor of the parish of St. Dunstan’s 53s. 4d. yearly, which is duly paid at the end of every term by the younger Judge of the said Court.”

This annual sum is still received by the Churchwardens from the Clerk of the Junior Judge of the Court of Common Pleas at Serjeants’ Inn. Nothing more is known of the origin of this gift.—VIII. p. 291.

WALK MONEY.

Oxburgh, Norfolk.

On a table of benefactions in the Church, it is stated that Sir Henry Bedingfield paid at Lady day annually 2*l.* for lands belonging to the township of Oxburgh, that this was called Walk Money, and was given to the poor.

The Commissioners could not find any other evidence relating to this payment, but 2*l.* a year is paid by Sir Henry Bedingfield to the Rector, and disposed of as above-mentioned.—XXIX. p. 698.

ELLEN MABBOTT'S GIFT.

Shaugh, Devonshire.

On a tablet in the chancel of the parish church is the following inscription :

“ Here lies that pious loving wife and mother,
 With her three sons, you 'll scarce find such
 another ;
 Her course to Heaven full well she knew to
 steer,
 Leaving the poor about forty pounds a year,
 Her flesh it will, her memory ne'er can rot,
 And if you'd know her name—'twas Ellen
 Mabbott.

“ Died November 13, 1711, aged 24 years.”

The Commissioners could not learn that any

sum had ever been distributed in respect of the above bequest, and they could not discover any evidence to confirm the statement on the tablet.—
V. p. 221.

 HANGING MONEY.
Shustock, Warwickshire.

This is known in the hamlet of Bentley by its appellation “hanging money,” from a tradition that £7. was given by a former resident in the parish, who received a reward to that amount for prosecuting a felon to conviction.

There is a sum of £7. now producing 7*s.* per annum, secured on the tolls of the turnpike road, leading from Atherstone to Coleshill, the treasurer of which pays annually 7*s.* to Power, of Bentley, the holder of the security, who distributes it amongst the poor at his discretion.—XXIX. p. 1000.

 BEQUEST OF HEAD SILVER.—CHARITY IN AID OF
FUNERALS.
Slapton, Buckinghamshire.

In the Parliamentary Returns of 1786, Thomas Knyghton is stated to have devised, by will, dated 1629, some land for the repairing town houses in

this parish, and to be distributed according to the inclination of the trust, and to pay head silver for the parish.

The property of this charity consists of about 48 acres of land in the open fields, in the hamlet of Billington, with rights of common let to Thomas Procter at £83. 10*s.* a year, subject to £4. 12*s.* land tax, and £1. 17*s.* 9½*d.* quit rent.

The rent is expended in the repair of four tenements under one roof, called the Town Houses, belonging to the parish in which paupers reside ; in paying yearly sixteen shillings and one penny, called head silver, to the lady of the manor of Slapton ; and in paying the expenses of all the funerals of labourers and their wives and children that die during the current year between Christmas and Christmas, including an allowance of a half peck loaf, one pound of cheese, and four quarts of beer for the attendants at the funeral of each adult.

The residue is distributed on the Monday before Old Christmas Day, amongst all the married poor of the parish according to the size of their families.—XXVII. p. 94.

EXHORTATION TO CONDEMNED PRISONERS.

St. Sepulchre, London.

Robert Dowe, in his life time, on the 8th of May 1705, gave £50 to the end that the Vicar and Churchwardens of this parish should, for ever, previously to every execution at Newgate, cause a bell to be tolled, and certain words to be delivered to the prisoners ordered for execution in the form and manner specified in the terms of his gift, as set forth in the old will book.

An annual sum of £1. 6s. 8d. in respect of this gift is charged upon the parish estate in West Smithfield; it is paid to the sexton, who employs a person to go to Newgate on the night previous to every execution, where he offers to perform the prescribed duty, which is always declined, as all needful services of that kind are performed within the prison.—XIV. p. 150.

Noorthouck, in his History of London, gives the words of the exhortation. He states that the sexton “comes at midnight, and after tolling his bell calls aloud,

‘ You prisoners that are within
Who for wickedness and sin,

after many mercies shewn you, are now appointed to die to-morrow in the forenoon, give ear and understand, that to-morrow morning the greatest bell of St. Sepulchre’s shall toll for you

in form of and manner of a passing bell, as used to be tolled for those that are at the point of death; to the end that all godly people hearing that bell, and knowing it is for your going to your deaths, may be stirred up heartily to pray to God to bestow his grace and mercy upon you whilst you live. I beseech you for Jesus Christ's sake to keep this night in watching and prayer, to the salvation of your own souls, while there is yet time and place for mercy; as knowing to-morrow you must appear before the judgement seat of your Creator, there to give an account of things done in this life, and to suffer eternal torments for your sins committed against Him, unless upon your hearty and unfeigned repentance you find mercy through the merits, death, and passion, of your only mediator and advocate Jesus Christ, who now sits at the right hand of God to make intercession for as many of you as penitently return to him.'

"On the morning of execution, as the condemned criminals pass by St. Sepulchre's church-yard to Tyburn, he tolls his bell again, and, the cart stopping, he adds, 'All good people pray heartily unto God for these poor sinners, who are now going to their death, for whom this great bell doth toll. You that are condemned to die, repent with lamentable tears; ask mercy of the Lord for the salvation of your own souls, through the merits, death, and passion of Jesus Christ, who now sits

CHARITY DERIVED FROM A BEGGAR. 129

at the right hand of God, to make intercession for as many of you as penitently return unto him.

Lord have mercy upon you !

Christ have mercy upon you !

Lord have mercy upon you !

Christ have mercy upon you !”

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CHARITY DERIVED FROM A BEGGAR.

Slindon, Sussex.

A sum of £15 was placed in the Arundel Savings' Bank in the year 1824, the interest of which is distributed on St. Thomas's Day. It is said that this money was found many years since on the person of a beggar, who died by the road side, and the interest of it has always been appropriated by the parish officers for the use of the poor.—XXX. p. 669.

CHARITY FOR REDEEMING ENGLISH CHRISTIAN
SLAVES FROM CAPTIVITY.

Bidford, Warwickshire.

By deed poll, dated 24th July 1655, Alicia Duchess Dudley appointed £100 yearly of the rents and profits of lands named in such deed and situate in the parish of Bidford, to be paid for and towards redeeming poor English Christian Slaves

or Captives, professing the faith of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, from the Turkish Slavery, and that such £100 should be paid to the East India Company or to any other Company for the redemption of English Christian Slaves from the Turks. And it was provided that if the said lands and the profits thereof should at any time fall short, and not be sufficient to pay such yearly sum of £100 (and other charities named in the same deed poll), there should be a proportionable abatement; and, in case the profits should exceed, that the overplus should be proportioned amongst the said other charities and the captives.

By another deed poll, dated 24th April 1657, the said Duchess Dudley declared, that, in case it should happen at any time after her decease that the £100 per annum could not be paid for the redemption of poor Christian Slaves or Captives from Turkish Slavery, either in respect there should happen none to be redeemed, or such other obstruction that the money so intended could not be employed and converted to that use, so that the use for the time being should fail, cease, and could not be performed, she did thereby order and appoint that the said yearly sum of £100 should be paid as follow, viz. :

£15 per annum to the minister of the parish of Bidford.

£15 per annum to the minister of the parish of Blakesley, in the county of Northampton.

And £70 per annum to the other charities before referred to.

Which said sums should be no longer paid, but only and during such time as the said £100 per annum could not be paid and disposed for redemption of Christian Captives as aforesaid.

Various proceedings have been taken in the Court of Chancery for the regulation of this charity.

The estates held in trust for its support consist of three farms of 356 acres 1 rood 11 perches in extent, producing a rent of £422 per annum.

There is also an accumulated fund amounting to £17,000 stock for want of claims. The subsequent proceedings in Chancery have so arranged the management and application of the proceeds as to provide annually for the redemption of slaves in case such should be necessary, and, failing in claimants therein, the amount is to be appropriated to other uses in accordance with the donor's wishes.—XVIII. p. 405.

BETTON'S CHARITY FOR THE REDEMPTION OF
BRITISH SLAVES IN TURKEY AND BARBARY.

Shoreditch, Middlesex

Thomas Betton, of Hoxton square, by will,

dated 15 February 1723, after giving 4*s.* to his brother Timothy and his three children, and ordering the payment of some trifling annuities, bequeathed the residue of his property to the Company of Ironmongers, London, upon trust, to place out his estate at interest on good securities, and not diminish the capital, that they should not apply the interest to any other use whatever than as follows, viz.

One full half-part of such interest of the whole estate to be paid yearly for ever to the redemption of British Slaves in Turkey or Barbary.

One full fourth-part yearly for ever unto charity schools in the city and suburbs of London, where the education is according to the Church of England.

The other fourth-part to the Ironmongers' Company for certain other purposes in consideration of their care and pains in the execution of his will.

The clear personal estate left by Mr. Betton (who died in 1725) was estimated in 1730 as amounting to about £22,000.

In November 1829 an information was filed by the Attorney General against the Ironmongers' Company, setting forth that the said Company had, out of the rents and profits of the estate, paid yearly to various charity schools in the city and suburbs of London, nearly one full fourth-part thereof, and applied one other full fourth-part to

their use, according to the directions of the said will; that for many years past they had not applied any part of the remaining money in the redemption of British Slaves in Turkey and Barbary, but had invested the monies arising therefrom in the purchase of stock, of which they kept separate and particular accounts; that by certain treaties entered into between this Country and Turkey, and the States of Barbary, all dealings in slaves were prohibited, and therefore, according to the laws of this country, the said moiety could not be applied according to the directions of the testator, and the information prayed that one moiety of the charity estates should be applied to the purposes of charity as near to the intention of the donor as the circumstances of the case would admit.

From the answer of the defendants it was elicited, that their clear income was £1700 a-year, after deducting the outgoings; and that between 1734 and 1826 they had expended the sum of £21,088 8s. 2½d. in carrying out the benevolent wishes of the donor for the redemption of British captives. They stated that they had been informed there were certain treaties between this country and Turkey and the states of Barbary, by which all dealings in slaves were prohibited; but that the said treaties were not all of modern date; the treaty to that effect with the state of Algiers, for instance, being as old as 1602; that the exist-

ence of the treaty did not altogether supersede the utility of Mr. Betton's bequest for the redemption of British slaves, for that many parts of the coast of Barbary were in a very unsettled state, and the inhabitants very little under the control of the nominal government; and that when British subjects were shipwrecked on those parts of the coast they were in part detained as slaves, and their liberty could often only be procured by the payment of money by way of presents: and when they were redeemed by the Government in consequence of the interference of the British Consuls, and set free, they were often obliged to wait many months before they could obtain a passage home, and were destitute of the means either of supporting themselves there, or of obtaining a passage home but for the assistance of this charity fund; and that consequently the charity fund could in some degree be still applied according to the directions of the testator; and that, as lately as the year 1825, the sum of £320. 6s. 9d. was paid for the support and passage home of the crew of a vessel wrecked to the north of Cape Canton, and afterwards redeemed by the Emperor of Morocco.

The defendants admitted that the income of the charity funds applicable for the redemption of British slaves was much more than sufficient to meet the demands upon it for the direct purposes of that particular charity, and expressed their

readiness to act in the execution of the trusts of will, as the Court might direct, on being indemnified.

The stock standing in the name of the Accountant General in this charity amounted to £119,180. 13s. 9d.; and the proceedings were going on at the date of the Commissioners' report in June 1837.*—XXXII. Part II. p. 451.

FOOTBALL LAND.

Borted, Essex.

In the Parliamentary Returns of 1786, it is stated, that an unknown donor gave a piece of land for the parishioners to exercise themselves in at football. This land is now called Camping Close, and consists of 2 acres, 3 roods, 13 perches. Part

* On 23rd January, 1841, the Lord Chancellor, on giving judgment, directed that (as the primary object of the testator could not be carried into effect) the interest of this immense sum should be applied to the purposes of promoting education in schools, according to the principles and tenets of the established church, throughout England and Wales, not giving at any one time more than £20 to any one school.

Malcolm makes this statement respecting Betton's Charity to poor slaves :—" In the year 1734 about 135 captive Britons, nine of whom were commanders of vessels, arrived in England from states of Barbary, and were presented to the King and the Lords of the Admiralty, and they afterwards dined together at the company's hall."

of the field is used as a gravel pit, and there are some elm trees upon it. It is let at a yearly rent of £2. 10s., which is carried to the account of the poor's rate.—XXXII. Part I. p. 628.

ENCOURAGEMENT OF ARCHERY, PASTIME, AND
HEALTHFUL RECREATIONS.

Andover, Hampshire.

The church tablet states that, in the year 1570, Catharine Hanson gave the Common Acre for the recreation of the inhabitants of the town, and that the corporation built four tenements upon it.

It appears from the Corporation Minute Book, that in the reign of Queen Elizabeth a lease of the Common Acre was granted for twenty-one years to William Gold, at the rent of four shillings, on condition *that he should keep a pair of butts for men to shoot at, and permit all persons to take their pastime there.* This ground is now used as a place of recreation for the inhabitants of the town. No profit is derived from it.—XIV. p. 357.

ENCOURAGING MAID-SERVANTS.

Burford, Oxfordshire.

The Rev. James Frethern, of Kencot, by will, 18th October 1663, gave forty shillings yearly to a maid-servant dwelling in a service wherein she had continued six years, not as an apprentice but as a hired yearly servant, without interruption: and if the first or second master or mistress should die, and the survivor marry again, and she continue in the service, that should not be accounted any interruption, the maid-servant living in good and commendable manners and unspotted fame, and being of the age of twenty-one years. And the testator directed that, if any year there should not be such a maid-servant, then that the forty shillings should be bestowed to help towards the placing out a poor boy or girl born in the town of Burford to service.

This payment issues out of land which was the property of Mr. Edward Bradshaw, lately deceased. In 1811 the bailiffs of Burford received seven years' arrearages, which were disposed of to seven women of their selection. In 1822 they received eleven other years' arrears, which were disposed of to eleven women. The Commissioners recommend the distribution to be made yearly, agreeable to the donor's will.—VIII. 484.

ENCOURAGEMENT FOR MAID-SERVANTS.

Canterbury.

John Cogan, by his will bearing date 27th July 1657, reciting that he had lately purchased lands and tenements in the parishes of St. Mildred and St. Mary Castle, Canterbury, and in Thanington in Kent, of the yearly value of £35, which he hoped in ten years would improve in yearly value by £10, and which he intended to dispose of for the encouragement of maid servants, to continue in service for six or seven years together; he therefore willed and devised the sum of five pounds a piece to any such three maid servants as should, without compulsion, dwell with any master or mistress, not being their own kindred, within the city of Canterbury, for six or seven years together, without shifting their service; and he directed that such master or mistress should give a certificate of such service, and that the wages had not exceeded fifty shillings a-year, to the mayor, recorder, and three or more of the aldermen of the said city for the time being; and he further directed that the overplus, after keeping the said tenements in good repair, should be employed by the said mayor, recorder, and three of the said ancient aldermen for the time being, in clothing six fatherless maiden children, from the age of six to twelve years, each to have a petticoat and

ENCOURAGEMENT FOR MAID-SERVANTS. 139

waistcoat of coloured kersey, one pair of shoes, and one pair of stockings, on Christmas day; and that they should go through the city of Canterbury from parish to parish as the said overplus would extend.

In 1835 the trustees disbursed an account of this Charity:—

Repairs - - - -	£5	0	0
Clothing seventy-five girls	59	14	1
Ten maid-servants - -	50	0	0
Stamps - - - -	0	4	0
	<hr/>		
	£114	18	1
	<hr/>		

The premises are let at £101 per annum.—
XXX. p. 277.

ENCOURAGEMENT OF GOOD BEHAVIOUR AND
MATRIMONY.

All Hallows, Exeter.

Richard Bevis, by deed 16th June 1602, granted to two citizens of Exeter and their heirs, three tenements in the parish of St. Mary-the-More, in Exeter; with a barn, tenement, garden, and two acres of land in St. Sidwell, in trust to levy and take out of such premises an annuity of £4, and to pay the same to the churchwardens of the respective parishes of St. Mary Arches, St.

Olave, St. John Bow, and All Hallows-on-the-Walls, by equal payments of twenty shillings to the churchwardens of each parish; and it was thereby directed that the churchwardens should pay the same sum of twenty shillings yearly, for ever, unto two such poor maidens as should happen to be married in their respective parishes, being such as should have served within the same parish where every one should so be married, by the space of two years next before the time of the same marriage: and if one such maiden only should happen to be married in any parish, in any one year, that the whole sum of twenty shillings should be paid to her. And if it should happen that there should not be any such poor maiden married in any one year, in any one of the several parishes, that the whole sum of twenty shillings should be safely kept in that parish where no such marriage should happen to be, until the next year wherein such marriage or marriages should happen, and that then the arrearage, with the annuity of twenty shillings due for that year should be paid to such one or two poor maidens in one year, in that parish, namely, to one wholly if but one such marriage should happen to be; but if two such marriages should happen to be, then to them both equally.

The annuity is paid by Mr. Pearse, the owner of the premises charged, and the sum accumu-

lates in the hands of the churchwardens until application is made for it by a maiden of the parish, qualified according to the donor's direction; and when that event happens, the whole sum accumulated is paid to her. The Commissioners were informed that the last payment took place in 1818, when the applicant received £9.

The claim is made at a parish meeting, and it is refused unless the bride bears a good character, and has served within the parish for the space of two years next before the marriage.—VIII. p. 122.

ENCOURAGEMENT FOR MAID-SERVANTS.

Guildford, Surrey.

John How, by will, dated 27th January, 1674, devised certain freehold and copyhold premises to Elizabeth Tea and her heirs, with intent that she should pay to his overseers within six months after his decease, the sum of £400, to purchase therewith freehold lands, &c. or a yearly rent charge within 20 miles of Guildford, to pay the rents and profits thereof yearly into the hands of the Mayor of the town of Guildford for the time being, who, with the magistrates of that town, should choose two such poor servant-maids within the said town of good report, who should have served masters or mistresses there two years to-

gether: which said two servant maids should throw two dice, or cast lots, and should pay one year's clear profit of the said premises to such maid as should throw the highest number, or to whom the lot should fall; and he directed that the other maid should the next year, if she should inhabit the said town and not be married, throw dice, or cast lots with another maid; but that, if any one maid should lose by the dice or lots four times, she should not be afterwards admitted to throw or cast again. And the testator declared it to be his intent and meaning, that no servant maid or maids of any the mayor or magistrates aforesaid, should be admitted to throw or cast lots, or to receive the profits of the premises above once in seven years; and that no maid should be chosen that should live in any inn or alehouse, although she should have served two years or more together, until she should have served for two years together elsewhere afterwards within the town.

And the testator further gave to the Mayor of Guildford, a yearly annuity of 15*s.* and to the Town Clerk an annuity of 5*s.* issuing out of lands in Shalford, to be paid yearly at Michaelmas, to the intent that they should keep a book and enter the names of the maids, and other proceedings in the charity, and as a compensation for the receipt and payment of the monies as aforesaid.

By an order in Chancery, dated 29th June,

1728, it appears that the sum of £400 was invested in the purchase of Bank Annuities, which were paid off at Lady Day 1728; and that, in pursuance of an order of Court, dated 26th June preceding, the produce was laid out in the purchase of £398 South Sea Annuities: it was ordered, that, of the interest then in hand, so much should be applied as would be sufficient to make up the complete sum of £400 South Sea Annuities, which was to remain in the name of the accountant-general; and that he should pay the dividends until the same should be laid out in the purchase of lands to the Mayor of Guildford, to apply the same according to the will of the said John How.

This order was duly executed, and the sum of £400 South Sea Annuities still remains vested in the Mayor, to the use of the charity.

The dividends, amounting to £12 annually, are reduced by an annual charge of 28*s.* for a power of attorney and affidavit to the sum of £10. 12*s.*, which is duly paid over to a maid servant, the choice of whom is determined by the cast of dice between two, as directed by the will.

The directions of the will appear also, in all other respects, to be duly attended to.

The land charged with the annuities of 15*s.* to the Mayor, and 5*s.* to the Town Clerk, is the property of Henry Edmund Austen, esq. by whom the payments are duly made.—X. p. 641.

ENCOURAGEMENT FOR APPRENTICES, GOOD CONDUCT
REWARDED.*Guildford, Surrey.*

John Parsons, by will, dated 3d July 1702, bequeathed to the Corporation of Guildford £600 owing to him from the city of Chichester on mortgage, at five per cent. the yearly profits thereof to be disposed of by the mayor and magistrates of Guildford for the time being, in manner following, viz. to pay the same to a poor young man who should have served an apprenticeship of seven years in the said town or liberties thereof, and should have become a freeman thereof (such young man first taking his oath before a lawful magistrate that he is not at that time directly or indirectly worth twenty pounds), that he may be the better enabled to set up his trade in the said town or liberties; and so to another young man so qualified, so that no man may have it twice; and in case it should happen that there should be no young man in the town qualified as aforesaid, he directed the mayor and magistrates to dispose thereof to a servant maid, who should have lived in good repute three years in one service in a private family in the said town, not in an inn, tavern, or alehouse; and he directed that this his gift should be constantly paid to the young men or maids within one month after they should have received the profits of the foregoing year: and he

directed that his executor should deliver to the said mayor and magistrates all writings concerning the premises ; and in case the corporation of Chichester should be willing to pay the said £600, that they should pay the same to the said mayor and magistrates, in trust, however, to be employed to purchase lands therewith, and to apply the yearly rents in manner aforesaid ; and in case the said mayor and magistrates should neglect or refuse to apply either the principal or interest to any other use than was therein expressed, he directed that the same should be forfeited to the corporation of Chichester ; and in case they should so neglect or refuse, then that the same should return to the corporation of Guildford.

In 1796 the sum of £532. 0*s.* 5*d.* was purchased in the four per cent. consols, and invested in the name of the mayor and approved men of the town of Guildford, which produced an annual dividend of £21. 5*s.* 6*d.*

This income is for the most part given to young men who have served apprenticeships of seven years in the town, and have become freemen, and appear in other respects to answer the requisites of the will, an oath being first duly taken by the candidate that he is not worth £20.

In two recent instances, no young man being found properly qualified, the dividends were paid to servant maids who had each lived three years

in good repute in a private family in the town.—
X. p. 641.

BEQUEST TO ENCOURAGE AND REWARD RELIGIOUS
GOOD CONDUCT, VIRTUE, AND MORALITY, IN FE-
MALE SERVANTS.

Maidenhead, Berks.

Dame Ann Pocock, by will dated 21st July 1816, bequeathed for the benefit of ten single women servants, not under the age of twenty-five years, who should have lived seven years in one service in the town of Maidenhead or its vicinity, and be therein at the time of applying for this bequest, £10 each, to be given for the first time within one year after her decease, for the encouragement of religious good conduct, virtue, and morality, and to be afterwards given at the end of every two years, after the distribution, as above directed, and for ever. No woman to have the bequest more than once.

The distribution takes place on 6th July, every alternate year, and public notice is previously given in the churches.—XXXII. pt. i. p. 82.

ENCOURAGEMENT FOR FEMALE SERVANTS.

Oxford.

Robert Whorwood, about the year 1687, gave by will £100 to the mayor, bailiffs, and com-

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monalty of Oxford, the interest to be disposed of by them in paying £5 per annum to a maid servant, as they should think fit, in such manner as the hundred pounds given to them in his lifetime was disposed of, to be secured for that purpose under the city seal.

Ten pounds, as the interest of these two benefactions, are disposed of on St. Thomas's day to two maid servants, each of them having lived seven years in one service. The persons are elected by the mayor, recorder, aldermen, assistants, bailiffs, and town clerk. The daughters of freemen are preferred, according to regulations drawn up for the management of this Charity. The income is provided for by £333. 6s. 8d. three per cent. consols, which is set apart expressly for this purpose.—VI. p. 389.

BOUNTIFUL ENCOURAGEMENT FOR FEMALE
SERVANTS.

Reading, Berks.

John Kendricke, in 1624, amongst other gifts to this town, gave £100 to poor maids of Reading, at their several marriages, by forty shillings a-piece, to be given only to such as should have lived seven years in any one place.

John Blagrave, by will, dated 30th June, 1611, devised to Joseph Blagrave and his heirs, a man-

sion house in Swallowfield, and all his lands and messuages in Swallowfield, Eversley, and Reading, on condition that they should yearly, for ever, upon Good Friday, between the hours of six and nine in the morning, pay £10 in a new purse of leather, to the mayor and burgesses, to the intent that they should provide that the same should be yearly bestowed in the forenoon of the same day in manner following, viz. twenty nobles to one poor maiden servant who should have served, dwelt, and continued in any one service within any of the three parishes of Reading, in good name and fame five years at the least, for her preferment in marriage; and, to avoid partiality in the choice, he ordered that there should be every Good Friday, three such maidens in election, to cast and try by lot whose the fortune should be, and that of those three one should be taken out of each parish, if it could be; and that every fifth year, one of the three should be chosen from Southcote, if any there should have lived so long; and that there should be special choice of such maids as had served longest in any one place, and whose friends were of least ability to help them. That ten shillings should be given on the same day to the preacher of St. Lawrence's, for a sermon; and that, after sermon, there should be twenty shillings given to threescore of the poorest householders of the same parish, who

should accompany the maiden to whom the lot had fallen, home to her dwelling place, and there leave her with her purse of twenty nobles. That the ringers should have three shillings and fourpence to ring a peal till the said maiden reached home. That twenty shillings, part of the £10, be sent to threescore poor people of the parish of St. Mary, and six shillings to twenty-four poor people of St. Giles's parish, threepence apiece; and that the clerk of St. Lawrence's and the youngest churchwarden should have three shillings and fourpence each.

Three girls are selected by the mayor and aldermen on Good Friday morning, one from each of the three parishes in Reading. The applicants produce a certificate of a continued service in one family for five years at the least. They each throw three dice, and the one who gains the highest number is announced as the "lucky maiden," and receives a purse containing the 20 nobles (£6. 13s. 4d.) The person gaining this prize is not considered eligible to be elected to stand for either of the other charities of the same description.

The girl who throws the second highest number receives £4, and the third £3, from Mr. Annesley's charity hereinafter mentioned.

ARCHBISHOP LAUD'S CHARITY, 1640.

In every third year twelve girls receive portions of £25 each. Such girls are selected by the visitors, and each produces a certificate of character and three years' service. Orphans are preferred, and those who are understood to be about to be married, and in general they are upwards of 20 years of age.

THE CHARITY OF BOUDRY AND RICHARDS.

By indenture, dated 10th April 1755, between the Rev. William Boudry and John Richards of the one part, and the corporation of Reading of the other part, reciting that there were already two good benefactions given to the maid servants of Reading, to encourage them to be industrious and to continue in their services, and that they the parties of the first part having seen the good effect of those two charities, and being desirous to give further encouragement to servants to be industrious and continue in their places, had purchased two plots of garden ground, which they had resolved to convey to the mayor, aldermen, and burgesses, upon the trusts thereafter mentioned; which said plots were accordingly conveyed to the said mayor, aldermen, and burgesses, upon trust, to meet yearly at the Guildhall

on the last Monday in August, about nine in the morning, and then, out of the rents and profits of the said land, pay 4*s.* to the town clerk for writing down the maidens' names that should offer themselves candidates, and for entering the names of those maidens who should be elected to try for this charity; always distinguishing the "lucky maid," who should receive this charity from the other two, and that they should pay to the day bellman 1*s.* in case he should attend such lucky maid home. And upon further trust, that they should yearly, on the day beforementioned, elect three maid servants of the Established Church, who should have respectively served in any one service within the three parishes of Reading, in good name and fame, five years at the least, one out of each parish, if it so might be, excepting, that as the parish of St. Lawrence was larger and likely to produce more candidates than St. Giles's, that every fifth year no maid should be elected out of St. Giles's, but two from St. Lawrence and one from St. Mary's, and if it should happen that no maid should offer herself duly qualified in any one of the three parishes, the deficiency might be supplied out of either of the other two, and the better to avoid partiality, that such three maid servants, when elected, should cast and try with three dice, and such maid who should throw the highest, should receive the residue of the rents of

the premises, all reasonable expenses being deducted ; and it was provided that, as this charity was intended as an aid to Mr. Blgrave's, and as it was reasonable to suppose that the mayor and aldermen would give a preference to their own maid servants, it was expressly declared that no maid servant should be qualified to be elected to try for this charity by serving any mayor, alderman, or burgess of this borough, if there should be others duly qualified ; and if there should not appear a sufficient number so qualified, then they might choose the maid servant of any alderman, duly qualified in other respects, to make up the deficiency, this charity being chiefly intended for the servants of those who were not aldermen or burgesses ; and it was provided that no maid servant should be elected to throw for this charity twice, if there should be any maid servant in the same parish duly qualified who should offer herself, that had not been before elected to throw ; and that no maid servant that had received either of the charities given by Archbishop Laud and John Blgrave, should be capable of being elected to throw for this charity, and that no deduction or fee, save as aforesaid, should be made out of the rents of the premises.

The Corporation meet on the last Monday in August at the council chamber, when the candidates attend, and their names are taken down by

the town clerk. The certificates and testimonials are examined, and the Corporation select one maid servant from each parish, who has lived five years at least in one continued service. There are generally ten or twelve from each of the larger parishes, and about four or five from St. Giles's. When the three persons are selected the public are admitted, and the three girls throw three dice at once, and the girl who throws the highest number obtains the prize. In August 1835 "the Lucky Maid," as she is called, received £28.

The town clerk and bellman receive their fees of four shillings and one shilling each, and a purse is given to the girl, with the money contained in it. The average age of the girls receiving this charity is from 23 to 24 years of age.

ANNESLEY'S CHARITY.

Martin Annesley, Esq. a very old member of the Corporation, 18th August 1809, addressed a letter to the mayor and aldermen, wherein, in allusion to the preceding charities, he stated that from motives of kindness for the unsuccessful candidates on Good Friday, he had about 20 years before, been induced to make a small donation to alleviate their disappointment, and that it was his wish to make the same more secure and permanent than it then was * * * *

and, he added, that it was his particular wish that the Corporation would accept the trust of this small benefaction, and permit him to transfer into their names the sum of £350 stock, to be disposed of in the same proportions as his mite was on Good Friday.

In another letter, dated 10th August 1820, Mr. Annesley, after stating that Mr. Boudry and Mr. Richards, by their deed, 10 April 1755, had directed that as the parish of St. Laurence was much larger, and likely to produce a greater number of candidates than the parish of St. Giles, therefore, every fifth year no maid should be elected out of the parish of St. Giles, but two of the said three should be taken out of the parish of St. Laurence and one from St. Mary, expressed his opinion, that by alterations in the population, the inhabitants of St. Giles, and consequently the servants, had become as numerous as the parish of St. Laurence, for which reason he wished in every such fifth year wherein, by the above directions, the parish of St. Giles would be excluded, that three maids should be elected out of the parish of St. Giles only, to throw for his addition, and he particularly wished that no servant who should obtain or even throw for his donation, should be precluded from the benefit they might be entitled to at any future election.

Mr. Annesley died in 1822, having added to

the amount of stock at first given; and there is now, in respect of this charity, the sum of £500 three per cent. consols, standing in the names of the mayor, aldermen, and burgesses of Reading, and producing an annual dividend of £15, which is disposed of according to the directions of the donor.

On Good Friday the sum of £4 is paid to the second lucky maid, who throws for Blagrove's charity, and £3 to the third. And on the last Monday in August the same sums are paid in the same way to the second and third candidates for the gift of Boudry and Richards, and the sum of six shillings is paid annually for four purses to contain the money given to the candidates.—XXXII. pt. i. pp. 31—48.

Mrs. Rachel Veasey, by will dated 11 Nov. 1790, bequeathed £805 New South Sea Stock, to the vicar and churchwardens of the parish of St. Laurence in trust, amongst other things, to pay, on St. Thomas's day, £4. 4s. a-year to two servant girls of the borough of Reading, who should have lived two years in one place, and could have a good character from such place.—XXXII. pt. i. p. 139.

ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THE GOOD AND WELL
DISPOSED.*Wargrave, Berks.*

Mrs. Sarah Hill in 1822 gave £400 three per cent. consols, producing £12 per annum, to the vicar and churchwardens of Wargrave, the interest to be applied as follows :

To two labourers of the parish of Wargrave, whose characters should stand the highest for honesty, sobriety, and industry, the sum of £1 each, yearly, at Easter. To six widows of Wargrave, or any old unmarried woman of the same place, whose characters were unimpeachable, the sum of ten shillings each at Easter. £3 a-year to be set apart and applied every four years, to a female servant who had lived the greatest number of years in one place in Wargrave parish, not less than four years, and whose character for honesty, sobriety, and good conduct was undoubted. £3 a year to the National School, and £1 a-year at Easter to be given, in new crown pieces as honorary medals, to two boys and two girls of the National School aforesaid. No boy to receive the reward who was undutiful to his parents, or was ever heard to swear, to tell untruths, or known to steal, or break windows, or do any kind of mischief; and no girl was to receive the reward who was not in every respect

modest, attentive to business, and well behaved. And Mrs. Hill sincerely hoped that these donations, however small, might, in some degree, answer the intended purpose of encouraging the good and well disposed. The constant attendance at the parish church to be also a requisite recommendation.—XXXII. pt. i. p. 130.

ENCOURAGEMENT FOR SERVANTS.

Wargrave, Berks.

The Rev. Walter Sellon, by will dated 1793, gave the sum of £400 to the parish of Wargrave, the interest to be applied as follows; namely £10 a-year to a servant man, native of Wargrave, who should have lived three years in one place; and to a maid servant £10 another year, and so alternately, no person to receive the benefaction twice; 30s. a-year to the poor of the parish, and 10s. a-year to the vicar or curate to preach a sermon on Michaelmas Day, setting forth the reciprocal duties of master and servant.

The £400 is in the three per cent. consols.—XXXII. pt. i. p. 129.

PRAYER AND LOYALTY.

Hilderstone.

Sir Thomas Hunt, by will dated 28th April 1625, gave to the vicar and churchwardens of Hilderstone, where his house stood, to the use of the poor there for ever, 53*s.* 4*d.* a-year for six poor men and women, by 2*d.* a-piece every sabbath day in bread; to the sexton or clerk, for setting the bread on the table, the odd 16*d.*; to the churchwardens, to buy them a pair of gloves, for distributing the same bread to the poor; and these poor, after service, if they should be well and have no convenient let, should come every sabbath day to the stone where his father lays, kneeling, should say the Lord's prayer, and pray to God for the King and Queen then reigning over them, and for no other use; he would have the people chosen by the vicar and churchwardens to be of honest and good conversation, and so they should enjoy it during their lives.—XVI. p. 333.

LOYALTY AND PATRIOTISM.

Alcester, Warwickshire.

Robert Wilcox, by will, dated 24th December 1627, gave a house and close to the town of Alcester, for the maintenance of three sermons in the year, viz. :—

“ One upon the 5th of November, in remembrance of our happy deliverance, with our King, Nobles, and States, from the pestilent design of the Papists in the Powder Plot ; one on the 17th November, in remembrance of that good Queen Elizabeth her entrance unto the Crown ; and the third upon the last day of July, in remembrance of the Lord’s gracious deliverance from the Spanish Armada in 88.”

And whereas the rent was 20s. by the year then, and the goodwife Lilly having her life in it, after her decease no doubt the house and close would be worth 30s. by the year : then his will was that the said overplus should be given to the poor every year, as the rent should come in, for ever.

The rent in 1826 amounted to 6*l.* per annum, and there was an accumulation of 18*l.* 13*s.* 2*d.* in hand.—XV. p. 515.

PATRIOTISM AND THANKFULNESS.

Leicester.

Thomas Hayne, by will, in 1640, gave 20*s.* yearly for a preacher in Leicester for a sermon to be preached in some church near the midst of Leicester, by the appointment of the mayor, near the time of the year in which the Spanish Armada was defeated in 1588, for a thanksgiving to God for that great mercy to this land.

This sum of 20*s.* is paid to the vicar of St. Martin's.—XXXII. pt. v. p. 33.

 CHARITY FOR SERMONS, &c. TO COMMEMORATE
NATIONAL MERCIES.
St. Nicholas, Nottingham.

Luke Jackson, citizen and girdler, of London, by will dated 26th January 1630, reciting that he was seised in fee of certain tithes at or near Horsepool in the county of Leicester, being about the value of 20*l.* per annum, devised the same to certain persons on trust, yearly to pay the clear rents and profits thereof in manner following; that is to say, two equal third parts as followeth: 40*s.* thereof yearly to be given for two sermons to be preached in St. Peter's church, in the town of Nottingham, on 28th July and 5th November, *acknowledging God's mercy, and giving thanks for the deliverance of this land and people at two seve-*

ral times from the Invincible Armada (as it was termed) *in 1588, and from the Gunpowder Plot in 1605* : and the residue of the said two thirds to be distributed amongst the poor people in the parish of St. Peter, at the discretion of his five feoffees ; and the other third part of the clear profits of the said tithes as followeth, viz. 40s. for two sermons to be preached in the church of Thornton near Horsepool *on the two above mentioned days* ; and the residue to be distributed amongst the poor people in the parish of Thornton, at the discretion of his feoffees.

In 1827 the annual income, in respect of this charity, amounted to 83*l.* 18*s.* 5*d.*—XX. p. 480.

BEQUEST FOR A SERMON, AND FOR SINGING A PSALM
AT THE ASSIZES.

St. Michael, Gloucester.

It appears by the benefaction table, that Giles Marden, by will, dated 14th March 1727, gave to the churchwardens of this parish for the time being, 11*l.* 10*s.*, to be placed out at interest, the amount arising on 10*l.* thereof to be paid for ever, for the preaching a sermon in the afternoon in the church on every assizes Sunday that should happen after Trinity Term for ever ; and the interest of the remaining 30*s.* to be paid for ever to

the clerk of the said parish for ringing the bell, and singing a psalm at such sermon yearly.

The commissioners report that this sum of 11*l.* 10*s.* was in the hands of the late rector at his decease (with other sums to the amount of 71*l.* 10*s.* secured by his bond, and yielding 5 per cent. per annum).—XIV. p. 47.

MUSIC.

Richard Lane, otherwise Tomson, by his will, dated 24th July 1619, gave to one of the deacons of the cathedral church of Hereford 40*s.* yearly for ever to prick fairly into books, songs and church service, for the use of the same church; and upon his coming every half year for his wages, he should bring with him the sub-chanter of the choir, who should show to him who had the payment of the money, what he had done in that business the half year last past; and if he should be found negligent therein, then the payment for that time should be given to twelve poor men the Saturday next following.—XXXII. pt. ii. p. 12.

MUSICAL REMEMBRANCE.

Westbury, Wilts.

Elizabeth Townsend, widow, by her will, dated 11th June 1820, gave unto the churchwardens and overseers of the parish of Westbury as much money as should be sufficient, when invested in the stocks, to yield the yearly sum of 3*l.* clear of all deductions, upon trust to pay the dividends thereof unto the vicar, organist, parish clerk, and choir of the parish church of Westbury for the time being, upon special condition that the said choir should for ever thereafter, in the morning and afternoon service at the parish church on the Sunday preceding the 24th of June in each year, sing the anthem composed by her late husband's grandfather, Roger Townsend, from the 150th Psalm, and also the 112th Psalm, for which the vicar was to have 4*s.*, the organist 10*s.* the clerk 5*s.*, and 4*s.* a-piece to the choir singers, viz. two counter, two tenor, three treble, and three bass singers, and in default of their singing, then to divide such 3*l.* amongst the poor at Christmas.—XXVII. p. 781.

The same person made a similar bequest to the choir of the parish church of Warminster, Wilts.—XXVII. p. 782.

REQUEST TO COMMEMORATE A HAPPY AND WON-
DERFUL DELIVERANCE FROM FIRE.

St. Michael, Gloucester.

It appears by a reference to the benefaction table, that Mr. John Blanch, late of Barton Street, by will, gave £50 to the churchwardens and overseers of this parish, upon trust, to equally divide the interest thereof among ten poor housekeepers of either hamlet that do not receive alms, and are persons of sober lives and strict observers of the sabbath; and also the sum of £22, the interest thereof to be given to the minister for preaching a sermon on the 29th day of October, yearly, in St. Michael's church, in commemoration of a happy and wonderful deliverance he that day experienced from fire.—XIV. p. 49.

SERMONS OF THANKFULNESS FOR PRESERVATION IN
THE GREAT FIRE IN 1666.

St. Andrew Undershaft, London.

Thomas Rich, by will dated 31st July, 1672, devised to Sir William Thompson and thirteen others, and their heirs and assigns, a messuage and premises situate in Lime Street, in this parish, on trust, to permit the minister and churchwardens to let the same, and receive the rents thereof, to be by them, and the overseers of

the parish, distributed as follows ; viz. 40*s.* yearly to the minister of this parish, who should yearly preach two sermons in the said parish, one on New Year's day, and the other on the third Tuesday in September, in thankfulness to God for the preservation of the said parish from the dreadful fire in 1666 ; viz. 20*s.* for each sermon, and to the clerk and sexton 3*s.* 4*d.* each ; and £3 yearly to the parish of St. Catharine Creechurch, London ; and the remainder to be distributed on St. Thomas's day to honest and most wanting housekeepers of the said parish of St. Andrew Undershaft, charged with children, who should be of a godly life, and of a good report, not inmates, nor scandalized with any notorious vice, to every one of them, men or women, in that description of poverty, 20*s.* or more, to make even the said residue of the said rents and profits.

In 1795 (this house and premises then producing £14 per annum) the East India Company contracted with the parish for the purchase thereof, engaging to invest such a sum of money as would produce to the parish £20 a year in the three per cent. consols, as a consideration for the said house and premises, which agreement was subsequently carried into effect ; and £666. 13*s.* 4*d.* was transferred, the interest to be paid to the rector and churchwardens, to be by them applied

to the purposes of Mr. Rich's will.—XXIII. p. 185.

FIRE OF LONDON, 1666.

St. Andrew, Holborn, London.

Mr. Thomas Tuck, who died in the year 1670, gave by will 40s. per annum, for ever, to this parish; viz. 20s. for a sermon on the 4th day of September in every year, *to deplore the calamity of the dreadful fire in London in 1666*, and 20s. to be distributed in bread among the poor of the same parish, on that day after sermon. But it is not known that this gift ever was paid.—XIV. p. 122.

TO COMMEMORATE THE PRESERVATION OF THE
CHURCH FROM FIRE.

St. Magnus, London.

Susanna Chambers, by will dated 28th December, 1640, gave the sum of 20s. a year to the parson of the parish church of St. Magnus, on London bridge, or such other preacher of God's word as should be appointed, for a sermon to be preached on the 12th day of February in every year, within the said parish church of St. Magnus, or in any other church near thereunto, in com-

memoration of God's merciful preservation of the said Church of St. Magnus from ruin in that late and terrible fire on London Bridge; and also the yearly sum of 17*s.* 6*d.* to the poor of the said parish of St. Magnus, to be distributed amongst them every year on the said 12th day of February; and also the sum of 2*s.* 6*d.* yearly unto the clerk and sexton of the Church where such sermon should be preached, equally betwixt them, for their pains and service on the said day.

The premises charged with the above payment are situate in Hornsey Lane, and occupied by William Abud, by whom the annual sum of 17*s.* 6*d.* is paid to the churchwardens, and carried to their general account. No sermon had been preached on 12th February for many years prior to the commissioners' report in 1830, nor had the annuity of 20*s.* been paid to the rector, nor that of 2*s.* 6*d.* to the clerk and sexton.—XXIII. p. 237.

CHARITY IN COMMEMORATION OF JOHN BUNYAN.

Bedford.

Samuel Whitbread, esq. by will dated the 13th July, 1795, gave to the trustees of the Old Meeting, out of respect to the memory of John Bunyan, and for the relief of the poor of the con-

gregation, five hundred pounds, to be laid out by his executors in the three per cent. consols, and the dividends to be annually applied in giving bread to the poor in quartern loaves every sabbath morning, from October to May.

After the death of Mr. Whitbread, the sum of £500, instead of being laid out in stock, was, at the request of his son the late Samuel Whitbread, Esq. allowed to remain in his hands on the security of his bond, conditioned for the investment of £980 three per cent. consols, being so much stock as the £500 would then purchase.

A bond, subject to the same condition, was executed about 1819 by William Henry Whitbread, Esq. eldest son of the late Samuel Whitbread, in lieu of the former bond.

The interest payable on the bond amounts to £29. 8s. per annum, which is received regularly by the trustees of the Old Meeting, and is laid out by them in the purchase of quartern loaves, which are distributed at the meeting house every Sabbath day, from May to October, among such poor persons of the congregation as the trustees select.—VI. p. 29.

CHARITY TO THRASHERS.

Charlton, Wilts.

The Parliamentary Return of 1786 gives the following account of this charity :

“ Lord Viscount Palmerston, in 1734, by deed, gave for thrashers, land producing £1. 1s. per annum, in whom vested not known.”

The commissioners were informed that it was understood that Lord Palmerston, about 80 years since, gave about an acre of land in Rushall Field, the rent whereof was to be applied annually to give a dinner to the thrashers of this parish to commemorate Stephen Duck the poet, who was originally a thrasher of Charlton. The parish of Rushall was inclosed, and by the award dated 12th January 1804, a piece of arable land, measuring one acre and fifteen poles, was awarded in a different part of Rushall Field. The land is now called Duck's Acre, and let to Farmer Daniel, of Rushall, at £2. 9s. 9d. as a yearly tenant. The land tax, amounting to 3s. per annum was redeemed by a subscription raised in the parish.

The rent is paid for a dinner, which is annually given on the 1st June to the thrashers of this parish.—XXVIII. p. 380.

BEQUEST TO COMMEMORATE THE VICTORY OFF
TRAFALGAR.

Bristol, St. Nicholas.

Richard Aldridge gave the interest of £200 three per cent. consols on trust, that the dividends should for ever be disposed of as follows :

£1. 1s. to the vicar of the parish of St. Nicholas, for performing morning service annually in the parish church, on the 21st October, and preaching a sermon in commemoration of the glorious victory obtained by Lord Nelson over the combined fleets of France and Spain, off Cape Trafalgar, on the 21st October 1805; 10s. 6d. equally between the clerk and sexton for their attendance at such service and sermon.

The residue of the dividends to be applied in keeping a monument of his friend in good condition, and the surplus after such repair to be given to the poor on 6th December every year in coals and garments.—X. p. 443.

BEQUEST TO COMMEMORATE LORD NELSON'S
VICTORY OFF TRAFALGAR. 1805.

Stroud, Gloucestershire.

In the year 1814 £100 three per cent. consols was given by Richard Aldridge, esquire, to Messrs. Scudamore and Holbrow for the express purpose

as follows : to pay one guinea to the officiating minister of Stroud, in the county and diocese of Gloucester, for preaching a sermon *commemorative of National Mercies on the 21st day of October annually, being the day on which the victory was obtained by Lord Nelson off Trafalgar over the French fleet in the year 1805.* Also to pay to the clerk of the parish of Stroud 5s., to the sexton 2s. 6d., and to the organist 5s. for their respective attendance on such days, and not otherwise ; moreover, to pay for a number of twopenny loaves, and to distribute the same among as many of the children of the charity or free schools held at Stroud Hill, Whites Hill, and the Thrup, as do attend on the said 21st day of October, as far as the money in hand will allow of, and should there be any surplus the same is to be given away in rewards to the children of the sunday school at White's Hill, at the discretion of the officiating minister for the time being.—XIV. p. 78.

MONUMENT AND CHARITY IN COMMEMORATION OF
CAPTAIN COOK, THE CELEBRATED NAVIGATOR.

Cambridge, Parish of St. Andrew.

Mrs. Elizabeth Cook, of Clapham, Surrey, widow of Captain Cook, by her will, dated 8th April, 1833, gave to the minister, churchwardens, and over-

seers, of St. Andrew the Great, and their successors, £1000 three per cent. consols, upon trust, to apply the dividends and interest in and towards the keeping clean and in repair the monument and inscription put up by her in the church to the memory of her husband Captain Cook and family, as also a stone in the middle of the said church, with her name and the names of her sons inscribed, and to be inscribed thereon; and after payment of the charges incident thereto, and of £2 annually to the minister for the trouble he might have in the trust, the residue of the interest and dividends to be distributed yearly on 21st December equally, between five poor aged women of good character, resident within and belonging to the parish, and not receiving parochial relief, to be named by the minister, churchwardens, and overseers, for the time being, or a majority.

After payment of the legacy duty the residue was invested in the three per cent. consols, in the names of trustees, and produces £27 a year.—XXXI. p. 45.

GRATITUDE FOR BEING PRESERVED IN A BATTLE.

Bristol, St. James.

Ezekiel Nash, for a memorial of his thankfulness to Almighty God for his wonderful preservation in an engagement with a French frigate March the

GRATITUDE FOR PRESERVATION IN BATTLE. 173

8th, 1762, gave by will, 27th March, 1800, the sum of £100, to the churchwardens and overseers for the time being of such parish as he should be buried in, upon trust, to invest the same and apply the interest annually in manner following, viz. to the minister of the same parish, for preaching a sermon yearly on the 8th of March, for ever, one guinea: to the clerk and sexton for their attendance 5s. each: the residue in the purchase of bread to be distributed on the 8th March and the six Sundays next following, among such poor persons of the parish whom the minister, churchwardens, and overseers, should think fit objects to receive the same, not receiving alms or other charity.

It appears by the churchwardens' book that £93. 16s. 8d. was received on account of this legacy, allowing for legacy duty and postage.

It was invested in the year 1804 in the purchase of £100 navy five per cents. in the names of Samuel Fripp and others.—IX. p. 439.

Henbury, Gloucestershire.

The Wellington Charity Fund is recorded in the Church in the following terms:

The undermentioned inhabitants of this parish having on the 24th day of July 1814, subscribed the sum of £136. 17s. 9d. in commemoration of the late glorious peace with France, after a war of

twenty years and upwards, it was agreed that the same should be invested in government security, and the same now stands invested in the purchase of £200 three per cent. reduced bank annuities, in the names of the Rev. Walter Trevelyan, clerk, Edward Sampson, and George Baber, as churchwardens, and Thomas Daniel, esq. to be called, "The Wellington Charity Fund," upon trust, to distribute the dividends thereof in bread or otherwise, to the poor of the said parish, either in the month of January or February, yearly, for ever, at the discretion of the minister and churchwardens for the time being." The subscribers' names then follow in the same table. The income £6 a year, is distributed in bread in January and February.—XVIII. p. 304.

LOYALTY.

Bristol, St. John Baptist.

Mr. John Farr's gift to record his loyalty is thus noticed in the Parish Ledger :

" July 19, 1821.

" Mr. John Farr presented to the Reverend William Mirehouse, curate, and the vestry of this parish, a silver goblet in commemoration of the coronation of his majesty King George the Fourth, which took place this day ; also 25 gui-

neas, the interest thereof to be given as follows, viz.

Five shillings for wine at the election of churchwardens every year, to be drank out of the aforesaid goblet, and 20s. a year, to be given to the women residing in St. John's almshouse on the 11th day of December, except there should be a coronation in that year, then the women are to receive the 20s. on that day instead of the 11th of December."—X. p. 461.

BELL RINGING TO COMMEMORATE THE ACCESSION
OF KING GEORGE THE FOURTH.

Margate, St. John's Parish.

It is recorded on a tablet in the committee room of the workhouse of this parish, that John Jarvis, M. D. on the 29th January 1825, gave £50, the interest whereof being 50s. yearly, in trust, to the guardians and churchwardens, to pay the same to St. John's (Thanet), Youths Society of Change Ringers on the 30th of January, in every year, provided they should ring one peal of grandsire triples, or not less than six hours' change ringing on the bells in the parish steeple on the 29th of January, the anniversary of the accession of King George IV. and whenever they should neglect so to do, the interest thenceforth to be equally divided between

five the oldest men, and five the oldest women in the parish house.

This donation was forfeited by the ringers not performing the conditions attached to it, since which time the interest has been divided amongst five of the oldest men and five of the oldest women in the workhouse, as ordered by the donor.—XXX. p. 558.

REQUEST TO COMMEMORATE THE PASSING OF THE
REFORM ACT.

Lugwardine, Herefordshire.

Moses Edwards bequeathed to the poor a rent charge of £5 per annum, for coals, to be distributed among them on the anniversary of the passing the Reform Act.—XXXII. pt. ii. 135.

CHARITY ILL-DIRECTED.

Stanton upon Wye, Herefordshire, &c.

George Jarvis, Esq. gave, by will, in 1790, £30,000, to be invested in government securities, in trust, to apply the yearly produce thereof in money, provision, physic, or clothes, to the poor of this parish, of Bredwardine and Litten.

The funds applicable to the objects of the donor's will in these parishes in 1822 had increased from £30,000 to £92,496. 17*s.* 9*d.* bank three per cent. consols.

The commissioners observed, "that the population of the three parishes was only 1180, and the income arising from the charity, nearly £3000 per annum, it must be obvious that even under the most judicious system of management such a charity would be likely to be productive of considerable evils, and accordingly it appeared at the time of the inquiry, that it had encouraged a spirit of discontent and a disposition to idleness and improvidence, and had attracted to the parishes numerous persons from other districts, with a view of entitling themselves to a participation in the charity."—XXXII. pt. ii. p. 175.

CHARITY TO ENCOURAGE MARRIAGES.

Harrow, Middlesex.

Amongst the orders, statutes, and rules, made and set forth by John Lyon, founder of the free grammar school in Harrow upon the Hill, there is a clause whereby, after specifying various payments to be made out of the charity estates, it is directed, that if there should be any overplus the

same should be "safely kept in stock towards necessary charge, and part thereof, to be given and bestowed for the help and relief of poor marriages, and other such good and charitable purposes within the said parish of Harrow, at the discretion of the keepers and governors of the lands, tenements, goods, and possessions of the said grammar school."

The commissioners report that for the (then) last five years, owing to expenses which had been incurred, especially in a law suit in which the governors had been engaged, there had been in fact no surplus. Notwithstanding that, however, several sums had been annually applied in marriage portions of £3 to such as have been thought deserving. It was expected that the debt incurred on account of the school would be discharged in the year 1823, and that then it was the intention of the governors to apply a larger portion of the surplus to such charitable purposes as were directed by the donor.—IX. p. 261.

BEQUEST TO PAY MARRIAGE FEES.

Winkfield, Berks.

Mr. Thomas Hatch, by will dated 3d December 1778, gave to the churchwardens of Winkfield £200 to be laid out in the public funds, the interest to be applied to the payment of the fees

for such poor persons as are willing to marry, but cannot pay the expense.

After the payment of the marriage fees of such couples as claim it, the residue is distributed by the churchwardens in small sums of money and articles of clothing to such poor persons as they may think deserving.

The capital sum was invested in the purchase of £289. 2s. three per cent. consols, and now stands in the name of the Accountant General, in trust, in the cause Attorney General against Hatch.—XXXII. pt. i. p. 205.

THE BEDFORD CHARITY, FOUNDED PURSUANT TO LETTERS PATENT SIXTH EDWARD VI. AND THE ACT THIRTY-THIRD GEORGE III.

Town of Bedford.

Marriage portion for poor maids, &c. out of estates in Holborn, given by Sir William Harpur.

By the eleventh rule or section of the Schedule annexed to the Act, it was provided and directed :

“That there should be applied and distributed every year, out of the rents and profits of the charity estate, the sum of £800 for the marriage portions of forty poor maids of the town of Bedford, of good fame and reputation, in equal shares, at the times and in the manner therein-

after directed; and for that purpose the trustees should, four times in every year, give three weeks' public notice in the town of Bedford, that they propose and intend to meet in the Town Hall to consider of poor maidens to whom portions should be given on their respective marriages, and all poor maidens resident in the town of Bedford, of the age of sixteen years or upwards, and under the age of fifty years, desirous of being candidates for such portions (whose fathers not being certificated persons from parishes out of the town of Bedford, should either have been occupiers of one or more house or houses in the said town, for the space of ten years next preceding their becoming candidates for such portions, or should have been born in the town, or should have been occupiers of one or more house or houses therein for the space of three years next preceding their becoming candidates) should be at liberty to send to the mayor of the town, or to the churchwardens of the parish wherein they should then respectively reside, an account in writing of their Christian and surnames, their ages, the places of their births, and the names of their parents, and that all such poor maidens, not being of bad fame and reputation, who should have given in such account as aforesaid one week at the least before the several times aftermentioned, should be permitted to draw lots on the Monday next after

Easter Day, on the second Monday after Midsummer Day, on the second Monday after Michaelmas Day, and on the Monday next after Christmas Day in every year, for ten sums of £20 on every of the same days, and that each of the ten poor maidens, qualified as aforesaid, who should draw the ten beneficial lots on each of the said several days, should be entitled to receive, upon the day of her marriage, the sum of £20 for her portion, provided she should marry within the space of two calendar months from the time of drawing such beneficial lot, and provided she should not marry a vagrant, or other person of bad fame or reputation, but not otherwise."

Rule or section twelve. "That the poor maidens of the age mentioned in the preceding order, and being daughters of persons of the description mentioned in the same order, who should have gone apprentices or to service out of the town of Bedford, and thereby gained settlements in their own rights, should be at liberty to become candidates for such marriage portions as aforesaid, in the same manner as if they had been resident in the same town, and that all such poor maidens as should not draw beneficial lots at one time should, if not married in the interim, be admitted to draw lots again at any future time."

Rule or section thirteen. "That the several maidens who should have been admitted to draw lots for marriage portions as aforesaid, and should not have drawn beneficial lots, should, at the next meeting of the trustees for the purpose of giving portions to poor maidens, be entitled, if then married, to the like sums of £20 each for their respective portions in preference to any other poor maidens who should then be candidates for such portions, provided they should not have married vagrants or other persons of bad fame or reputation."

Rule or section fourteen. "That if any part of the said yearly sum of £800 for the marriage of poor maidens should, upon the second Monday after Michaelmas Day 1793, or on the second Monday after Michaelmas Day 1794, remain unapplied, such residue should be distributed amongst such poor maid servants, and in such manner as therein mentioned."

Town of Bedford.

Charity by Sir William Harpur for apprenticing poor Children.

By the sixteenth rule or section of the Schedule of the Act 33d Geo. III. before referred to, it is ordered,

"That the sum of £700, further part of the

BEDFORD—APPRENTICING CHILDREN.

rents and profits of the charity estate, should yearly, by two half-yearly sums of £350, be applied in placing out twenty poor children apprentices every half year: viz. fifteen boys, not under the age of thirteen, nor above the age of fifteen years, and five girls not under the age of twelve, nor above the age of fifteen years, whose respective fathers, not being certificated persons from parishes out of the town of Bedford, should either have actually been occupiers of one or more house or houses in the town of Bedford, for the space of ten years next preceding their children being so apprenticed, or have been born in the said town and been occupiers of one or more house or houses therein for the space of three years then next preceding; and that all such poor boys and girls, qualified as aforesaid, whose names should have been given in, either to the mayor of the town of Bedford or to the churchwardens for the time being of the parish in which their fathers should respectively reside, one calendar month before the respective times of drawing lots aftermentioned, should be permitted to draw lots on the second Tuesday after Michaelmas Day and the second Tuesday after Lady Day in every year, and that the sum of £20 should be paid as the apprentice fee with each of the fifteen boys, and £10 as the apprentice fee with each of the five girls who should, on the several days

aforesaid draw the beneficial lots, upon their being respectively put out apprentices within the space of two calendar months after they should have drawn such beneficial lots, to masters and mistresses of good character and responsibility, to be approved of by the trustees assembled at a general meeting, or the major part of them, and that the boys should be bound for seven years, and the girls for five years, and that the girls should be apprenticed to such trades or occupations only as women follow (lace-making excepted); and if upon any of the aforesaid days for drawing lots, the full number of fifteen boys, qualified as aforesaid, should not become candidates, then an additional number of beneficial lots should be drawn for by the girls who should offer themselves as candidates, so that twenty beneficial lots might be drawn for every half year; and that the several indentures by which such children as aforesaid should be bound apprentices, should be freed from the stamp duty, in the same manner as all indentures of apprenticeship where apprentices are put out by charity."

Rule or section seventeen. "That in case any of the poor children who should draw beneficial lots as aforesaid, should die or be otherwise disposed of, or not be put out apprentice within the space of six calendar months from the time of his

her or their drawing such beneficial lots respectively (unless the same should happen by default of the trustees, or be prevented by some inevitable accident), the money intended for such child or children respectively, should be drawn for again at some of the subsequent days appointed for drawing lots, and be applied for the benefit of such child or children as should become entitled thereto by drawing a beneficial lot."

Rule or section eighteen. "That such of the poor boys qualified as aforesaid, who should upon any of the said days mentioned in the sixteenth order, have drawn the unsuccessful lots, should have the preference at the next succeeding day or days appointed for drawing lots for the apprenticing money, and should be entitled to the sum of £20, to be paid upon their being respectively put out apprentice, in preference to those boys who should afterwards apply."

Rule or section nineteen. "That every boy and girl put out apprentice as aforesaid, who should actually serve the full term of his or her apprenticeship, and in all respects comply with the tenor of his or her respective indentures of apprenticeship, should, on producing to the trustees assembled at a general meeting, within three calendar months after the expiration of their re-

spective apprenticeships, a certificate signed by their respective masters or mistresses, and by the minister and churchwardens of the parish where they should have respectively served their apprenticeship, testifying such actual service and compliance with the tenor of their indentures, as well as their good morals and behaviour respectively, or on producing such other proof thereof as the trustees so assembled, or the major part of them, should require, but not otherwise, be entitled to receive such sum of money, not exceeding £20 nor less than £10 each, as the trustees so assembled, or the major part of them, should judge proper and expedient."

With regard to the observance of the directions set forth in the Schedule quoted, the commissioners' report that the sum of £800 is applied in paying marriage portions for poor maidens, under the authority of the eleventh rule. That the trustees adhere to the mode of proceeding prescribed by the rule. They make inquiry, as far as they can, into the character and situation in life of the persons to whom the maidens are to be married, before they agree to advance the portions; and the portions are refused where the characters of the parties are not satisfactory.

That the sum of £700 a-year is applied as directed by the sixteenth rule, in apprenticing chil-

dren, selected in the manner appointed by the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth rules, but with a preference to the children in the hospital of the charity.

It is found very difficult to obtain proper masters or mistresses for the girls at so small a premium as £10. Half of the premium only is paid at first with each apprentice, and the remainder after half of the term of the apprenticeship has been served.

The fund annually applied as benefactions to children at the expiration of the term of their apprenticeship, under the nineteenth rule, usually amounts to about £200. The sum of £10 only is generally allowed to each young person, and before the money is advanced, the trustees require the certificate mentioned in the nineteenth rule, and also make inquiry of the masters or mistresses of the apprentices respecting their conduct and behaviour.

With reference to the gifts to poor girls on going to service, it appears that the sum of £100 is appropriated to making donations of £3. to each of twenty poor girls in service; and of £2 each to the same girls on completing one year of such service, and producing certificates of good conduct, according to the thirty-second rule. The girls receiving such donations are those who have not drawn the beneficial lots for apprentice fees,

or having drawn such, cannot for any reason be apprenticed. The trustees, to guard against the donations being received by girls not going out to service, do not advance the money until the girls have been six months in place.

It appeared that the revenue of this Charity, in 1819, amounted to £6815.—VI. p. 11—668.

A PARTICULAR INSTANCE OF ATTACHMENT TO
A FAMILY NAME.

London.

John Nicholson, of London, stationer, by will 28th April 1717, after bequeathing several specific legacies, gave all the residue of his estate in charity, towards the support and maintenance of such poor persons of the kingdom of England as should appear to be of the name of *Nicholson*, being Protestants. And he directed that it should be disposed of in the following manner, namely:

One hundred pounds a-year to two such poor persons, men or women, of the name of *Nicholson*, towards their advancement in marriage; to each of them £50; always observing that no more than £50 be given to any one couple so marrying.

One hundred pounds per annum towards putting apprentice such poor boys and girls of the name of *Nicholson*, or towards setting them up, as his trustees should think fit.

And £100 per annum towards the support and maintenance of such poor men and women of the name of *Nicholson*, as his trustees should direct; always observing that not more than £10 a-year, and not less than £5 a-year, should be given to any one person; the said sums to be paid to them at their own habitations.

He appointed William *Nicolson*, Lord Bishop of Carlisle; Mr. *Nicolson*, the bishop's son; and three other persons of the name of *Nicholson*, two of whom were resident in London, trustees; and left to them the entire management of this Charity, and appointed them his executors.

The commissioners reported that in 1822, the property then belonging to this Charity consisted of £9273 5s. 3d. stock, producing a dividend of £278 4s.

With respect to the application of the Charity, each of the five trustees has the distribution of a fifth part of the income in his turn.

One hundred pounds is disposed of yearly to twenty pensioners of £5 a-year each, which is paid half yearly, each trustee having a list of four pensioners, which he fills up as vacancies occur. The further sum of £100 is disposed of in apprentice fees, each trustee having the appointment annually of two of £10 each, or one of £20. The further sum of £50 is given annually as a marriage por-

tion. And all these benefactions are confined to the name of *Nicholson*.

In 1822 the trustees were Mr. Rowland *Nicholson*, of Penrith; Mr. James Robison, St. Mary Axe, London; Mr. Isaac *Nicholson*, Lorton, near Cockermouth; Mr. Thomas *Nicholson*, Whitehaven; Mr. William *Nicholson*, Carlisle.—VII. p. 781.

BEQUEST TO ENCOURAGE MATRIMONY AND
HORSE RACING.

Newmarket, All Saints.

By a deed poll, dated 12th August 1801, executed in pursuance of a decree in Chancery, relative to the will of John Perram, dated 30th May 1772, the trustees of a sum of £410. 6s. 2d. three per cent. consols, and £21 bank long annuities, being the original sum given by the will, together with such accumulations thereon which had accrued during the proceedings in Chancery, were declared; to hold them upon trust, six weeks at least before Easter, to cause notice to be given as therein directed, that a marriage portion of £21 would be given to a parishioner of the said parish, who should, on Thursday in the Easter week, be married at the church to a woman belonging to it; neither party to be under twenty, nor to exceed

twenty-five years of age, nor be worth £20; the trustees to attend in the vestry to receive claims, and pay the bequest to such couple as should be qualified to receive it. In case of two claims the determination to be by ballot who should receive it. In case of no claimants then the money, for that year only, to be paid by the trustees to the winner of the next town plate.

Notice is annually given in sufficient time to allow the publication of banns before Easter week.

The money had not been claimed above twenty times in the last thirty years up to 1837. When claimed the whole dividend is paid to the parties entitled; when unclaimed it is carried to the racing fund.—XXXI. p. 98.

MARRIAGE PORTION FOR A POOR MAIDEN.

Northampton.

Thomas Craswell, in 1606, bequeathed £50, the interest thereof to be given yearly *towards the preferment of a poor maid of Northampton in marriage.*

It is supposed that the legacy was paid to the corporation, £3 a-year being annually allowed out of their revenues to the mayor for the time being, for the benefit of a poor maid of the town. The mayor pays the money to some poor servant

maid, chosen by himself; but it is not required that she should be under contract of marriage.—XIV. p. 262.

REQUEST TO ENCOURAGE MATRIMONY AND PROVIDENT HABITS.

Ottery St. Mary, Devonshire.

Thomas Axe, of Orchard, in the county of Somerset, by will, dated 20th July 1691, gave to trustees and their heirs, all his houses in Southwark or elsewhere, after certain devises to the governors of Ottery St. Mary, upon trust, yearly, about St. Thomas's Day, to distribute the same as follows, viz.

One part to such person of skill in surgery and physic, either man or woman, of exemplary life (at least to supply a present necessity until better advice can be had), to buy drugs and plasters. One part to the vicar, one part to the minister, one part to the grammar schoolmaster, one part to the parish clerk of Ottery St. Mary; and as a fund to encourage steadiness, sobriety, and industry, three of those parts were to be as a stock, out of which should be paid the sum of £3 upon the marriage-day of any young man or woman that should not marry till after the age of twenty-one years; and that should have lived in one service in the said parish of Ottery St. Mary, for

seven years; and should not have had any alms of the parish within five years next before such marriage; and after that there should be paid to such couple, or the survivor of them, twenty shillings by the year for three years, if they could prove that in each of the said years they had, *bond fide*, increased their stock in the past year £3. And at the end of five years next after such marriage, upon their making it appear that they had really gotten, and should have then of clear stock £15, and had not been chargeable to the parish since their marriage, there should be paid to such a couple, or the survivor of them, £5 more; two parts were to be yearly distributed about St. Thomas's day, among elderly and sober housekeepers, that had lived well, and had received no alms of the parish within five years, none to have less than twenty shillings ("the less they need it the better they would be able to give an alms to such as are in want"); and the other two parts to be as a fund to lend to such poor men to supply their stocks as had not had alms of the parish for five years, but were industrious and sober. In the choice of objects for any of these three last sort of charities, the next of kin of the testator were to have a voice; and if any of them should desire it, he directed that they should be, in the first place, preferred, if qualified as they ought; in the next

place, such as should have been born in the parish of Ottery St. Mary; next, such whose employment should be husbandry; next, such as should be employed in the linen or woollen manufacture; next, artificers and handicraftsmen; and, lastly, shopkeepers.

The property of the charity consists of houses in Southwark and stock, the income arising from which in 1818, amounted to the sum of £100 18s. 4d. (after allowing deduction for insurance, &c.), which was divided into twelve parts, viz.

One-twelfth part to the vicar . . .	£8	8	2½
One-twelfth to the vicar's wife, to buy drugs, &c. for the poor . . .	8	8	2¼
One-twelfth to the chaplain-priest . . .	8	8	2¼
One-twelfth to the schoolmaster . . .	8	8	2¼
One-twelfth to the parish clerk . . .	8	8	2¼
Three-twelfths to the fund for marriage portions to servants entitled	25	4	7
And the remaining four-twelfths distributed to the poor of Ottery by the governors	33	12	9¾
	<hr/>		
	£100	18	4

The vicar's wife disposes of the share she receives in providing wine and cordials for the sick and aged persons of the parish; which mode she considers as more beneficial to them than laying it out in medicines for their use, there being a medi-

cal person employed by the parish, who receives an annual salary for attending the poor.

The sum of £3 is given to each person who shall have been married after twenty-one, having lived seven years in one service in the parish, and not having received any alms within five years of the marriage; the money is paid as soon as these qualifications are made to appear to the trustees; and twenty shillings a-year are paid to the married couple, or the survivor of them, for three years, if they can prove, that in each of those years they have improved their stock to the amount of £3, of which the trustees are satisfied on their showing that they have been careful and provident in their circumstances to that amount.

It is stated that many claims have been made and granted for the gift of £5, after a lapse of five years from their marriage, by persons who have received the former gifts; the trustees having first ascertained, as well as they were able, that the claimants were qualified.

It has long ceased to be the practice to lend any portion of the fund to poor men; and the Commissioners were told, that such loans were formerly made, but seldom repaid.—III. p. 107.

The same donor also bequeathed property at Blandford, Dorset, producing an annual rent of £55 2s., of which he directed nine-twelfths to be paid to the parish clerk of Ottery St. Mary for the

time being, so long as he should perform his duty in the church as he ought to do, and should be an example of good life to the parishioners, and should not sell ale, &c. for a livelihood, nor frequent alehouses. The other three parts to some man or woman of exemplary life, and indifferent skill in physic and surgery, that should industriously endeavour to help all the poor of the parish of Ottery St. Mary, gratis, &c.—III. p. 108.

MARRIAGE ENCOURAGED.

St. Margaret, Westminster.

Edward Dickenson, Esq. by will, dated 8th May, 1781, directed his executors to invest so much money, part of his personal estate, in Bank three per cent. consolidated annuities, as would purchase 5000*l.* capital stock, in the names of the rectors or vicars incumbent of the parishes of St. Margaret, Westminster; Acton, Middlesex; and St. John the Evangelist, Westminster; in trust, to divide within one month next after Easter day, yearly, one year's interest or dividends of the said stock (after deducting thereout so much, not exceeding one tenth part thereof, as should be necessary for defraying the expenses of the trust), into three equal parts, and pay one-third thereof amongst such three couples who should within the past year have been married in the parish

church of St. Margaret, Westminster, (at the discretion of the trustees,) to labouring, industrious, honest, and sober persons, thought worthy to receive the same, towards providing them with necessaries; and to dispose of the other two third parts respectively in like manner to three couples who should have been married in each of the parishes of Acton and St. John the Evangelist, Westminster; such distribution to be made with the approbation of the Bishop of London for the time being.

Petitions for this charity are taken into consideration by the trustees on the Wednesday in Easter week, and they decide upon the nine couples who shall receive the bounty, and a check on the banker for 15*l.* is given to each husband.—X. p. 303.

MARRIAGE PORTIONS FOR YOUNG WOMEN.

Wilton with Ditchampton, Wilts.

Richard Sumption, of the parish of St. Clement Danes, London, Esq. by his will, dated 4th February, 1775, amongst other bequests to the town of Wilton, gave 1000*l.* three per cent. consols, on trust to be paid, by the trustees of the school at Wilton, or their steward, as marriage portions to such poor young women, natives of and resident in the town of Wilton, as the governors. of the

school, or the majority of them, should think deserving, not exceeding the sum of 10*l.* to each, to be paid on or as soon after their marriages as might be.

30*l.* a-year has been regularly applied for the above purpose, in sums never exceeding 10*l.*, and seldom less than 6*l.* to each. Before the selection, notice is published in the church, and a list is kept of all the young women who have been portioned.—XXVI. p. 499.

EXTENSIVE AND PROSPECTIVE BEQUEST.

Langton, Leicestershire.

The Rev. William Hanbury, rector of Church Langton, by indenture, dated 14th March, 1767, laid the foundation of some extensive and unusual charities, for the benefit and improvement of this parish. As, however, the whole concern is to undergo the review of the Court of Chancery, it will suffice in this place to notice the outline only, of the Rev. founder's views.

To establish schools for ever.

The founding &c. an organ for ever.

Provide beef for Church Langton poor.

Beef for ever.

Provide for a public library.

Provide for a picture gallery.

Provide a printing office.

Provide an hospital at Church Langton.
Establish professorships of Grammar,
Music, Botany, Mathematics, Antiquity,
and of Poetry.

In the final or explanatory deed, it was witnessed that the trustees named by the founder, were to defer building of lodgings, &c. for the respective professors, &c. when the income was sufficient for their salaries, but to keep it accumulating until it should bring in £10,000 a year, at the rate of 4 per cent.

At a certain period, a grand and stately church should be built at Church Langton, with proper stalls for the trustees, professors, &c. as grand an organ as could be made, a peal of 12 bells at the least, with chimes, chandeliers, ornaments, painted windows, table and altar piece of the finest marble, paintings by the best master then living, &c. The church was to be gothic, built as much like a Cathedral as possible. No less than three steeples, the tallest of which should be not less than one hundred yards high, and every becoming dignity and ornament added.

£100,000 were to be expended on this fabric; and, that completed, another should be built, which should be named the Temple of Religion and Virtue. A noble museum was to be erected. These being effected, proper lodgings, &c. for the professors, schools, hospital, printing office, &c.

were to be finished, and the founder was desirous if it could be contrived to make the whole of these buildings form a square of two hundred yards on each side, &c.

The details of Mr. Hanbury's various endowments must be exceedingly long, as the mere abridgment of them occupies twenty-seven folio pages of the Commissioners' report, to which the curious reader is referred for further information.*—XXXII. pt. V. pp. 246, 273.

A TASK.

Shere, Surrey.

Thomas Gatton, by will, 2nd May 1758, gave £400 to be secured to the parish of Shere, the interest thereof to be for the teaching such a number of poor children, as the rector and churchwardens should think proper, to read and write, the rector or curate to have one guinea per year, to catechise them, and to make a sermon once a year, the text to be taken out of one of the chapters they were to learn by heart. The chapters were, 1st of Proverbs, the 11th and 12th of Ecclesiastes, the 15th Psalm, the 13th of the

* Reference also should be had to Mr. Hanbury's own account of his intended Charities, as given in "The History of the Rise and Progress of the Charitable Foundations at Church Langton, 1767," 8vo.; a full abridgment of which work is given in Nichols's History of Leicestershire, II. 685.

BEQUEST TO ENCOURAGE LEARNING. 201

1st of Corinthians, and the 6th chapter of the Ephesians.

Thirty poor children appointed by the rector and churchwardens, are taught to read by three schoolmistresses, who receive 10*s.* per annum; for each child. -XIII. p. 463.

BEQUEST OF A BIBLE TO ENCOURAGE LEARNING.

Rothley, Leicestershire.

The table of benefactions records, that John Willowes gave 5*s.* yearly, to buy a Bible, to be given on Whit-sunday, to any boy who can read the first chapter of Saint John's Gospel, the most distinctly.

The 5*s.* has always been considered a charge on certain estates in the parish, in the possession of Thomas Babington, Esq., who supports a Sunday school at his sole expence, and who annually gives amongst the children attending it, five or six bibles. In that number, the bible bequeathed by Mr. Willowes is supposed to be included.—XXXII. pt. V. p. 413.

EARLY RISING.

Huntingdon St. John's, and All Saints.

A tenement, and two closes of land, in Little Stukeley, containing 3*a.* 3*r.* 14*p.*, it is understood

were given to provide for the tolling All Saints' church bell, every morning at four o'clock. The practice has of late years been discontinued. The rent, £10 a year, is applied in payment of two guineas a year to the sexton, and towards defraying the expenses incidental to the office of churchwarden.—XXIV. p. 26.

EARLY RISING, THOUGHTS OF DEATH AND RESURRECTION, ENJOINED BY THE RINGING A MORNING AND EVENING BELL.

Wokingham, Berks.

Richard Palmer, by indenture, dated April 1664, gave lands in trust to pay and employ all the rents and profits of the same as and for a salary to the sexton of the parish church of Wokingham, to ring out the greatest bell belonging to the parish church there half an hour every evening at eight o'clock, and every morning at four o'clock, or as near to those hours as might be, from the 10th of September to the 11th of March in every year, for ever, which mode of ringing of such bell the said Richard Palmer had propounded to himself to cause to be done not only that as many as might live within the sound might be thereby induced to a timely going to rest in the evening, and early arising in the morn-

ing to the labours and duties of their several callings (things ordinarily attended and rewarded with thrift and proficiency), and that strangers and others who should happen in winter nights, within hearing of the ringing of the said bell, to lose their way in the country, might be informed of the time of night, and receive some guidance into their right way ; and for which rational ends he conceived his said work could not but be well liked by any discreet person, the same being done and well approved of in most of the cities and market towns, and many other places in the kingdom ; but also to the better end aimed at by him, that all those whose care of being mindful of their latter end should incline them thereunto, might thereby take occasion, at the ringing of the evening bell, to think of their own passing bell and day of death ; and at the ringing of the said morning bell, might also think of their resurrection, and call to their last judgment ; which things doing he believed no man, unless very much hardened, could at the same time wilfully and resolutely propound to himself the leading of a wicked life, but rather be deterred and taken from it ; and upon further trust, that if it should happen that the ringing of the said bell should be hindered or wilfully neglected, the rents and profits of the said land should be paid to his heirs during the time of any such hinderance or neglect.

The sum of £2 a year is paid to the sexton by the Palmer family, and the bell is regularly rung every evening at eight, and every morning at four, from 10th September to 10th March yearly.—XXXII. pt. i. p. 224.

PROPAGATION OF RELIGIOUS KNOWLEDGE.

Wharton's Charity.

Philip Lord Wharton, by indenture, 12th July 1692, conveyed premises in the city of York to Sir Edward Harley and others upon trust, that the rents and profits should be employed for the buying of English Bibles and Catechisms to be distributed yearly to and amongst poor children who can read. And by further instructions in writing, dated 24th April 1693, he ordered that 1050 Bibles, with the Singing Psalms bound up therewith, should be yearly provided, of the English translation, published by authority, in a large duodecimo; each Bible not exceeding 2s. 6d. in price, or as near thereabouts as could be bought. That the like number of Catechisms should be yearly provided. That an inscription by a stamp should be on the outside cover of each book, with these words:

“ By the will of Philip Lord Wharton.”

That there should be a printed paper pasted in-

side the Bibles, to this effect: "These reading Psalms in the English translation in the Bible, are to be learnt without book by the child to whom this book is given, namely, 1st, 15th, 25th, 37th, 101st, 113th, 145th."

He also ordered that sermons should be preached at York, and twenty-six other places, allowing 10s. for each, the purport, design, and scope of every sermon to be to discover and prove to the people the truth, usefulness, sufficiency, and excellency of the Holy Scriptures, and the people's right to have them fully in their own language, and also their duty to read, study, and search the Scriptures, and take them for their only unerring rule of faith, worship, and manners; and no mention to be made of the donor, either in the sermon or prayers.

In the year 1819, the expenditure amounted to £616. 17s. 2d.—IV. p. 467.

A RELIGIOUS TASK.

Newark, Nottinghamshire.

Dr. Thomas White, Bishop of Peterborough, by his will, bearing date in 1690, gave to the poor of the parish of Newark £240, to be laid out in land, £10 of which rent he allotted to the poor yearly for ever, and the surplusage, whatever it should be, to the rector, as a reward for his pains

and fidelity in the distribution of the said £10 to the poor; and he directed that the distribution should be made yearly by the rector in the church porch in the presence of the churchwardens or overseers, in the following manner, viz. that it should be distributed the 14th December to twenty poor families, or persons of forty years old each, by equal shares, reckoning husband and wife for one person, *who should, before the receipt thereof, exactly and distinctly repeat the Lord's Prayer, the Apostles' Creed, and the Ten Commandments, without missing or changing one word therein.* And if any man and wife should appear for a share in the said charity, it should not be a sufficient qualification for them that one of them made the exact rehearsal, but they should both make it, or else have no share at all in it. He also directed that no one should receive his charity twice, till all the poor of the parish should have received it once who should make the repetition aforesaid, that the advantage might spread as far as possible.* And he further directed, that this part of his will should be transcribed and

* Bishop White left the like bequest to the parish of Bottesford in Leicestershire, with the same directions. Land was purchased, which is now let at 39% a-year; and after paying 10% to the churchwarden, who distributes it according to the directions of the will, the Rector retains the surplus himself.—XXXII. pt. V. p. 433.

locked up in the parish chest; and yearly, on the last Sunday in November, after morning service, the rector should read this part of it to the poor and the inhabitants, in the parish church.

This sum was invested in the purchase of lands now held by the corporation. The rent is received by the chamberlain, and carried to the general account, out of which there is annually paid to the vicar, in respect of Bishop White's charity, the sum of £12.; two pounds whereof he retains to his own use, and the remaining £10 he divides between twenty poor families, agreeable to the directions of the will. These persons are selected by the vicar, who previously ascertains that they are able to repeat the apostles' Creed, the Lord's prayer, and the ten Commandments.—XXI. p. 366.

PEACE OFFERING.

Hentland, Herefordshire.

It is recorded on a tablet in the church, that a peace gift of five shillings per annum was issuable out of Baysham Court Farm, in the parish of Sellack, to be distributed on Palm Sunday, for ever.

This farm is the property of Mr. Edward Jones, who regularly pays the rent charge. The money is laid out in the purchase of plain bread cakes,

which are distributed by the churchwardens at the church on Palm Sunday, amongst all the congregation indiscriminately.

The origin of this charity could not be ascertained by the Commissioners.—XXXII. pt. ii. p. 320.

CLOCK LAND.

Haslingfield, Cambridgeshire.

The rents of a small piece of land containing 1 A. 0 R. 20 P. called the Clock Holt, have been applied from time immemorial for the winding up and repairs of the church clock. It is let at £1. 12s. 0d. per annum. The donor is wholly unknown, and no documents whatever were produced to the Commissioners relating to it.—XXXI. p. 195.

ENCOURAGEMENT TO LEARN THE CATECHISM.

Haslingfield, Cambridgeshire.

Robert Barber, by will, dated 21st June 1818, gave unto the minister of Haslingfield and the tenant of the farm, in which Mr. Wallace then lived, £20 in trust, to be placed out at interest, upon good security, and the interest thereof to be by them given every year after his decease unto that child under the age of thirteen years, who should most perfectly repeat the Catechism on Christmas day. He died about the year 1825.—XXXI. p. 195.

RELIGIOUS TASK.

Farnsfield, Nottinghamshire.

Samuel Higgs, by his will, bearing date 11th May 1820 (as appears from the church tablet) gave £50 to the vicar and churchwardens of this parish, and directed that the interest should be given every year on 21st December, in equal proportions, to ten poor men and women who could repeat the Lord's prayer, the creed, and the ten commandments, before the vicar or such other person as he should appoint to hear them.

The interest is applied according to the donor's orders, and the poor persons appointed to partake of the charity continue to receive it during their lives.—XX. p. 532.

PATERNOSTER PENNY.

Coleshill.

Ann Digby, by deed, dated 30 November 1520, granted to certain persons lands and premises in trust; out of the rents of the said premises they should every day in the year pay within the parish church of Coleshill, immediately after the saying of the high mass there, to a boy or girl dwelling within the said parish, and under the age of nine years, that could and would kneel at the altar, and say five paternosters, five aves, and

a credo for the souls of her husband, of herself, and of their children, and of all Christian souls, a penny of silver sterling to the child for the time doing the said prayers, and which daily penny she desired to be distributed among the children inhabiting the parish in manner following: that the said daily penny should not be given to any but the children of householders and inhabitants in the said parish, and not dwelling out of the same. To exclude division among the said householders, she directed that the persons in trust should begin the distribution in the house next adjoining the church, and afterwards in the house next to the church after it, and so on successively for ever.

By an inquisition, taken 18th March 1613, under a commission of charitable uses, it was found that certain premises in Coleshill, then of the clear yearly value of £10, were theretofore given by some of the ancestors of Sir Robert Digby of Coleshill, knt. to the intent that one penny of money, every day for ever, should be given of the rents thereof unto young children of Coleshill, under the age of nine years, for the saying of the Lord's prayer in the church of Coleshill, as it had been theretofore used.

The commissioners report, that a payment of £3 has been for many years made out of the property, in respect of Alice Digby's gift, or the pa-

ternoster dole, which is paid to the vicar for distribution, and is applied by him in rewards of small sums to the children of the Sunday School who are the best proficient in saying the Church Catechism, and also in similar rewards to the children of other schools in the town, who can say the Catechism.—XXIX. p. 1029.

PARTIALITY FOR FAMILY NAME.

London, Drapers' Company.

Henry Dixon, by will, bearing date, 9th November, 1693, gave all his lands, &c. to the Drapers' Company, in trust, amongst other things, to apply the rents in and towards placing apprentices to handicraft trades; in the first place, such poor boys, wheresoever born, as should bear his christian and surname, and should be of the age of fifteen years or more, £5 for each boy, and for the payment of the like sum of £5 to every boy so placed out, that should duly serve his apprenticeship within a month after he should be made free of the City of London, for the better enabling him to set up his trade; and in the next place, for placing out in like manner, such poor boys wheresoever born, as should bear his surname only, and should be of the age of fifteen years, paying for each boy £4, and for payment

of the like sum of £4 to every such boy that should duly serve his apprenticeship, within a month after his being made free of the said city for the like purpose.—XXXII. pt. ii. p. 428.

BEQUEST FOR KEEPING THE CHURCH AND CHURCH-
YARD, IN CLEAN AND DECENT CONDITION.

Cowley, Middlesex.

By indenture, enrolled in Chancery, dated 3d January, 1761, reciting, that the parish of Cowley was very small, and consisted of few inhabitants, whereby the salary, fees, and perquisites of the parish clerk were very small, and not sufficient to satisfy him for the trouble he must, or ought necessarily be at, in keeping clean the church and churchyard; and reciting that Barnard Dagnall, of Cowley, was desirous that the said parish church of Cowley, might for ever thereafter be kept clean and decent, and that the churchyard might also be kept neat and free from weeds, filth, dirt, and other annoyances, and was therefore minded to settle and assure the rents, issues and profits, of the four acres of land and premises thereafter mentioned, in trust for the benefit of the parish clerks of the parish church of Cowley aforesaid for the time being, the better to encourage, oblige, and enable them for ever there-

after, to perform and do their duty, and keep the said church and churchyard clean and free from all annoyances, it is witnessed that the said Barnard Dagnall sold to Thomas Dagnall, his heirs and assigns, four acres of land in the Middle Shott, in the common field of Cowley, upon trust to pay the rents and profits thereof, to the parish clerks of Cowley, so long as they should continue doing and performing their duty as parish clerks of the said church, in duly attending the service of the said church, and keeping the church clean from dust and other annoyances, and likewise keeping the churchyard of the church, neat and free from weeds, filth, dirt, and other annoyances, to the content and satisfaction of him, the said Thomas Dagnall, his heirs and assigns; and in case the parish clerk, for the time being, should not discharge his duty, as regards such required cleanliness, &c. it should be lawful for the said Thomas Dagnall, his heirs and assigns, to apply such rents for the paying any other person who should be employed to do the duty or service so neglected.

The land is let at £8. 5s. per annum, and the rent is paid to the clerk; who on account thereof considers himself liable to keep the churchyard in clean and decent order.—IX. p. 215.

ATONEMENT.

Croydon, Surrey.

By deed, dated 1st January, 1600, reciting that William Tracy, one of the ancestors of Susan Barker, had, by way of pleasing his King, rashly libelled the life of Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury, the said Susan Barker, knowing the kindness and truly episcopal life of John Whitgift, then archbishop, and desiring that it should openly appear that her family were never ill-disposed to the pontifical dignity, as certain evil-disposed persons had published, granted to the warden and poor of the hospital of the Holy Trinity* and their successors, a yearly rent of £6. 13s. 4d., issuing out of her mansion house, called Lancaster College, in St. Paul's Churchyard, London, for 1000 years from the day of the date thereof, which grant her husband confirmed, on condition that the said warden and poor should neither sell nor alienate the same; and they gave seizin and possession of the said annuity, by the delivery of a golden coin of the value of 10s., which coin is still affixed to the said deed.—XXXI. p. 875.

* Founded by Archbishop Whitgift.

BEQUEST OF LAND, TO PROVIDE SACRAMENTAL BREAD
AND WINE.

Stanley, Derbyshire.

An entry in a book belonging to this parish without date, but which appears to have been written more than 50 years ago, states that three roods of land, in Samuel Richardson's Little Buttery, abutting toward Clarke's croft, were left to buy bread and wine for the Holy Sacrament for ever.

The field called the Little Buttery has undergone some alteration, a great part having been taken from it, and an addition made to it. The field is now called Samuel's Buttery, and the residue of it, except the above mentioned three roods, is the property of Richard Bateman, Esq.

From the description given of the three roods of land in the parish book, the north-east part of Samuel's Buttery is pointed out as the situation of them, and it is supposed that they may be worth about £1 per annum.

Mr. Bateman's tenant purchases the bread and wine, for the Sacrament at Stanley chapel, which are estimated to cost annually as much as the fair rent of this small plot of land.—XVII. p. 151.

BEQUEST OF SACRAMENTAL WINE.

Aber Daron, Caernarvonshire.

In the returns made to Parliament in 1786, it is stated, that a donor unknown gave £1 5s. per annum to the poor, supposed to issue from the rectory of Aber Daron.

Twelve bottles of port wine are annually received by the churchwardens from the steward of Charles Griffith Wynne, Esq. of Cefn Amlwch, proprietor of a moiety of the great tithes of the parish of Aber Daron, which it is supposed are given in respect of this donation.

The wine is used for the Sacrament.—XXVIII.
p. 446.

STREWING THE CHURCH WITH RUSHES.

St. Mary Redcliffe, Bristol.

It appears by the charitable donation book, page 142, that William Spencer, by deed, dated 29th November, 1494, devised to feoffees certain premises situate on the back of Bristol, then of the yearly rent of £4, that they should for ever provide three priests to preach the Word of God in the parish church of St. Mary Redcliffe, Bristol, or in the churchyard of the said church, before the mayor and commonalty of the said town, and other devout people thither repairing, at the feast of Pentecost, and to pay every of the said priests

STREWING THE CHURCH WITH RUSHES. 217

there for preaching 6*s.* 8*d.*, to the mayor of Bristol, for the said preachers' dinner at his table, 3*s.* 4*d.* each day, to the clerk and sexton for ringing the bell, and placing the forms for the mayor and common council, 12*d.* per day; the residue of the rent to remain towards the payment of quit rents, the reparation of the said premises, and to the common profit of the said town.

These several sums, amounting to £1 13*s.* 4*d.* are annually applied according to the gift.

The corporation, on whom the charge has devolved, pay, at Whitsuntide, for preaching three sermons £1 10*s.* to the clergyman of Redcliffe parish, and for ringing and strewing rushes in the church 3*s.* 4*d.* The mayor, and a part of the corporation, go to Redcliffe church on Whitsunday, when the church is strewed with rushes.

These payments appear to have been constantly and regularly made; but the corporation books afford no information as to the property charged, or the manner in which the obligation to perform the charity has devolved upon that body.—VIII. p. 607.

STREWING THE CHURCH WITH RUSHES.

Clee, Lincolnshire.

The parish possesses a right of cutting rushes from a piece of land, the property of Richard Thoroild, Esq. called "Bescars," for the purpose of

strewing the floor of the church every Trinity Sunday.

A small quantity of grass is annually cut to preserve this right.—XXXII. pt. iv. p. 422.

RUSHES AND STRAW FOR THE CHURCH.

Deptford, Kent.

The table of benefactions states, that a person unknown gave half a quarter of wheat, to be given in bread every Good Friday, and half a load of rushes at Whitsuntide, and a load of pea straw at Christmas yearly, for the use of the church.

By a decree of commissioners for charitable uses, dated 4th March, 6th James I. it was decreed, that the owners of three parts of land, whereof one was called Lady Crofts, should from thenceforth for ever deliver and distribute, every Good Friday, amongst the poor people of Deptford, all the bread which might be made and baked of half a quarter of good wheat; and should likewise yearly deliver, at Whitsuntide, half a load of good green rushes, and at Christmas one good load of new grass straw, in the pews of the church at Deptford.

The land charged is Brookley farm.

By an order of vestry, 17 April, 1721, it appears that William Wilkinson offered 21s. per annum for the time to come, in lieu of pea straw and rushes, which offer was accepted, and since the

RUSHES AND STRAW FOR THE CHURCH. 219

year 1744, 10s. has been received in lieu of the half quarter of wheat. The two sums of 21s. and 10s. are regularly paid and distributed in bread.—XXX. p. 618.

STREWING THE CHURCH WITH RUSHES.

Wingrave, Buckinghamshire.

There is a piece of land, of about three roods of meadow, left for the purpose of furnishing rushes for the church, on the feast Sunday.

It is let to Mr. Thomas Cook, at a rent of £1. 1s. a-year, which is received by the parish clerk, who provides grass to strew the church, on the village feast day, which is the first Sunday after St. Peter's day.—XXVII. p. 108.

STREWING THE CHURCH WITH NEW HAY.

Glenfield, Leicestershire.

A close, called the Church Acre, was set out, on the inclosure of Glenfield, in lieu of lands in the open fields, the rent of which has always been paid to the clerk of the parish, as a part of his salary. The land is situated near the village, and is let to Joseph Ellis, for 30s. a-year.

In respect of this land, the clerk is obliged to strew the church with new hay on the first Sunday after the 5th of July, and for this purpose, he

is allowed to take a cut of hay from off the land. This practice is understood to be in compliance with the will of the donor of the land.—XXXII. pt. v. p. 158.

STREWING THE CHURCH WITH NEW HAY.

Old Weston, Huntingdonshire.

A piece of green sward, of about a rood, in the open field, belongs by custom to the parish clerk for the time being, subject to the condition of the land being mown immediately before Weston feast, which occurs in July, and the cutting thereof being strewed on the church floor, previously to divine service on the feast Sunday, and continuing there during divine service.—XXIV. p. 57.

BEQUEST TO AWAKEN SLEEPERS, AND WHIP DOGS
OUT OF CHURCH.

Claverley, Shropshire.

Amongst other directions mentioned in the deed of feoffment, 23rd August, 1659, whereby Richard Dovey, of Farmcote, granted certain premises to John Sanders, and others, viz. cottages or buildings, over and adjoining the churchyard and churchyard gates of the parish church of Claverley, is to place in some room of the said cottages, and to pay yearly the sum of 8s. to a poor man of that

parish who should undertake to awaken sleepers, and to whip out dogs from the church of Claverley during divine service.

It appears by the evidence adduced before the Commissioners, that the sum of 10*s.* 6*d.* per annum had been paid for the above purpose for upwards of 20 years prior to their inquiry.—IV. p. 249. 504.

“AWAKE, THOU THAT SLEEPEST!”

Trysull, Staffordshire.

John Rudge, amongst other charities to this parish, gave by will, dated 17th April, 1725, 20*s.* a-year, payable at 5*s.* a quarter, to a poor man, to go about the parish church of Trysull, during sermon, to keep people awake, and to keep dogs out of the church.

This sum is paid by Cornelius Cartwright, Esq.—V. p. 634.

CHARITY TO KEEP BOYS QUIET IN CHURCH.

Wolverhampton, Staffordshire.

It appears from the benefaction table, that Richard Brooke gave 10*s.* yearly, to be distributed to the poor on the day of his death, and 5*s.* a-year to one, to keep boys quiet in the church and church yard, in the time of prayer and sermon, to be paid out of a piece of land called Mill Hayes, in

or near Coven, in the parish of Brewood. The Commissioners ascertained that the dole had been in arrear from 1812, that Mr. Shenstone, of Standford Mills, was in possession of the land called Mill Hayes, and that he was ready to pay the arrears due, whenever an account should be made out by the churchwarden; and they had since been informed, that he had done so. The origin of the rent-charge the Commissioners could not discover.—IV. p. 363.

DOG WHIPPER'S LANDS.

Chisle, Kent.

Ten shillings a year is paid by the tenant of Sir John Bridges, as a charge on lands called Dogwhipper's Marsh, containing about two acres, to a person for keeping order in the church during divine service.—XXX. p. 297.

BEQUEST FOR KEEPING DOGS OUT OF CHURCH.

Peterchurch, Herefordshire.

From time immemorial an acre of land in this parish has been appropriated to the use of a person for keeping dogs out of the church, such person being appointed by the minister and churchwardens.

GRATITUDE FOR BENEFIT OF CURFEW BELL. 223

An exchange has lately been effected of this land for another acre near to it, which is considered of a superior quality and more valuable than that given in exchange by the parish.—XXXII. pt. ii. p. 307.

GRATITUDE FOR BENEFIT OF CURFEW BELL.

Barton, Lincolnshire.

Upon the inclosure of this parish, a claim was made to the Commissioners by the clerk of the parish of St. Peter's, for 13 A. 3 R. open land; and in the award there was allotted to the parish clerk of Barton, and his successors, 7 A. 2 R. 16 P. in East Field, in lieu of certain land in the open field, &c.

The common tradition in the parish is, that a worthy old lady in ancient times, being accidentally benighted on the Wolds, was directed in her course by the sound of the evening bell of St. Peter's Church, where, after much alarm she found herself in safety, and out of gratitude she gave this land to the parish clerk, on condition that he should ring one of the church bells from seven to eight o'clock every evening, except Sundays, commencing on the day of the carrying the first load of barley in every year till Shrove Tuesday next ensuing inclusive.

This duty from time out of mind has been and still continues to be performed by the clerk.—XXXII. pt. iv. p. 511.

CURFEW BELL AND CLOCK LAND.

Cropredy, Oxfordshire.

By indenture 26th August, 4th Henry VIII. (1513), Roger Lupton, vicar of Cropredy, delivered to the churchwardens of Cropredy and Bourton £6. 13s. 4d. for which they covenanted for themselves and their successors, to find at their own costs some person to keep duly the clock of Cropredy, and to ring daily, both winter and summer, the curfew and day bell.

The property belonging to this charity consists of a close in Wardington called the Bell Land, containing 14 acres, let at £32 a-year, out of which £4. 10s. is paid to a person for ringing the bell and winding up the clock at Cropredy, in equal proportions by each place; the residue is applied in each parish in aid of a church rate.—XII. p. 187.

CURFEW BELL.

St. Margaret's, Kent.

On a plat of rising ground
 Hear the far-off curfew sound,
 Over some wide-water'd shore,
 Swinging slow with sullen roar.

MILTON.

It is stated in an old register, that the parish of St. Margaret passed an order in the year 1696, to ensure the proper application of the proceeds of five roods of pasture land, which had been given by a shepherd who fell over the Cliff, for ringing a curfew bell at 8 o'clock every night for the winter half-year, and which ringing had fallen greatly into neglect.

This land, supposed to be of the annual value of about 20s., is occupied by the clerk of the parish, who rings the curfew bell at eight o'clock every evening during the winter months.—XXX. p. 565.

 CURFEW AND DAY BELL.
Presteign, Radnorshire.

John Beddoes, by indenture dated 20th April, 1565, conveyed premises to feoffees in trust, that they should (amongst other matters), out of the rents, keep and find an able person to ring a bell

in the parish church of Presteign, every morning for ever, between the feasts of All Saints and the Purification of Our Lady, by the space of one half hour, which should be called the day bell; and also should nightly for ever ring one other peal with the same bell at eight o'clock in the afternoon, as well in summer as winter time, by the space of one half hour, which should be called Curfew; and that, if the ringing of the said bell should be discontinued for one year (unless the plague was in the said town of Presteign, or other reasonable cause), then the said premises to revert to his heirs.—XXXII. pt. iii. p. 461.

CURFEW BELL.

Ringwould, Kent.

There is in this parish half an acre of land called "Curfew Land," which has been always held by the parish clerk as a remuneration for ringing the Curfew bell every evening, from the 2d of November to 2d February.—XXX. p. 560.

DING DONG, OR CURFEW BELL LAND.

West Rasen, Lincolnshire.

At the inclosure of this parish, the Commissioners awarded a small allotment, containing

1 A. 2 R. to the rector and churchwardens, "upon trust, to pay the clear rents and profits thereof to some poor parishioner of West Rasen, for ringing a bell in the said parish church at a certain hour during some part of each and every year for ever." This allotment was in lieu of a piece of land called "Ding Dong," which had been in the possession of the parish from time immemorial; it is believed that it was originally given for the purpose of having a bell tolled at night during the winter months, but the custom has long been discontinued. The land is not let, but is occupied by some poor and deserving person appointed by the rector and churchwardens.

The annual value may be about 50*s*.—XXXII. pt. iv. p. 489.

CUFFEW BELL LAND.

St. Giles, Norwich.

In 1474 Walter Geffry gave land in Heigham's Fields, upon trust, that the churchwardens of St. Giles, Norwich, should every night in the year ring a bell of the parish church for a quarter of an hour at eight in winter and nine in summer; and in 1816 the same land was conveyed to Cole and others, upon trust, with the rents to find a person to ring the curfew bell.—XXVII. p. 659.

DRESSING A GRAVE WITH FLOWERS.

Grateley, Hampshire.

William Benson Earle, Esq. who died in 1796, gave three hundred guineas to the rector, churchwardens, and overseers of Grateley, in trust, to vest the same in their joint names, and expend half the interest thereof at Christmas, and the other half at Easter, in the purchase of the best ox-beef and cheese, together with potatoes or peas, or both, to be distributed in just proportions, at their discretion, among the poorest families in that parish, but no where else. And he requested that one guinea of the annual interest should be given yearly to the clerk of the parish, *so long as he should cleanse and repair with flowers in the different seasons, as had before been done, the bed over the remains of Dame Joanna Elton, in the church-yard of Grateley.* The dividends are paid and applied according to the donor's order.—XIV. p. 368.

ROSE TREES IN CHURCH YARD.

Barnes, Surrey.

By indentures of lease and release, dated 7th and 8th of March, 1790, reciting that Edward Rose by will, dated 18th December 1652, directed his body to be buried in the church yard of Barnes, and bequeathed £5 for making a frame or partition of

wood in the churchyard, where he had appointed his burying place, and ordered three rose trees or more to be set or planted about the place where he should be so interred; and also bequeathed to the minister, churchwardens, and overseers of the poor of Barnes, for the use of the poor of that parish, £20, to be laid out within three years, in the purchase of an acre of land for the use of the poor, but willed and directed that out of the rents and profits of such land, the minister, churchwardens, and overseers for the time being, should cause the said frame and partition of wood to be kept in repair, and the rose trees preserved, or others planted in their places, from time to time, as they should decay; and further recited, that an acre of land, in the Town Long Croft, had been surrendered to trustees, in trust, for the poor of the parish of Barnes, pursuant to the will of the said Edward Rose, and that such piece of land had been exchanged for two acres of land in the common close, upon the trusts and for the uses mentioned in the will of the said Edward Rose, &c. &c.

The land taken in exchange was let by the churchwardens to Henry Hugh Hoare, Esq. (late of Stourhead, Bart.) as yearly tenant, at £8. 10s. per annum, the full annual value.

The rents are laid out in purchasing bread, which is distributed to the poor at the church on Sundays, Christmas Day, and Good Friday.—X. p. 589.

TOLERANCE.

Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire.

William Wilson, by his will, dated 15th April, 1726, gave the sum of £100 South Sea Stock to the Chamber of the Corporation of Tewkesbury, upon trust, to permit the high bailiff for the time being to receive the dividends thereon, and dispose of the same, at his discretion, to poor persons of Tewkesbury, especially to such *as should be visited with sickness or other calamitous accidents, without any regard to differences of political and religious opinions*, the bailiff to account to the chamber for the disposal of the same, and to retain 10s. for his trouble.

The amount of stock now standing under this will, in the names of the Bailiff, Burgesses, and Commonalty of Tewkesbury, is £112. 6s. 3d., the annual dividend of which is £3. 7s. 4d. which is received by the chamberlain, who pays it to the general fund in the hands of the Corporation, for the benefit of the poor.—XXI. p. 198.

EDUCATION, GOOD EXAMPLE, &c.

Yarm, Yorkshire.

William Chaloner, Esq. a native of this parish, by will, dated June 18th, 1799, left £400 Three per Cent. Consolidated Bank Annuities, the interest thereof to be paid to the master of the free grammar-school at Yarm, for the education of eight poor children between the ages of six and

fourteen years, to be elected by the minister and churchwardens for the time being; and he also bequeathed £100 Four per Cent. Bank Annuities, the interest thereof to be paid to the minister of Yarm for the time being, for a Sunday Evening Lecture, to be preached quarterly on the first Sunday after the Epiphany, Lady Day, Midsummer Day, and Michaelmas Day, in every year, on the following subjects, viz.

I. On the Education of Youth, and the prevalence of good example.

II. On Baptism.

III. On Redemption.

IV. On the Wisdom of God in the Creation.

The directions of the will are annually complied with.—VIII. p. 752.

AFFECTIONATE MEMORIAL OF A DAUGHTER'S LOVE
FOR HER MOTHER.

Brougham, Westmorland.

In this parish is a payment of £4 a-year out of an estate at Yanwath, in the parish of Barton, given by Anne Countess dowager of Pembroke in 1656. There is no deed or document in the parish relating to it, but there is a stone pillar in the parish of Brougham, on the road between Penrith and Appleby, with an inscription recording the benefaction in the following terms:

“ This pillar was erected A. D. 1656, by the Right honourable Anne Countess Dowager of Pembroke, and sole heir of the Right honourable George Earl of Cumberland, for a memorial of her last parting in this place with her good and pious mother, the Right honourable Margaret Countess Dowager of Cumberland, the 2d April 1616. In memory whereof she also left an annuity of £4 to be distributed to the poor within this parish of Brougham every 2d day of April, for ever, upon the stone hereby. *Laus Deo.*”*

This rent-charge is paid by John Nicholson, of Yanwath, the owner of the estate, which is now charged with the payment thereof, and is distributed about the 2d April, by the ministers and churchwardens, amongst two, three, or four families not receiving weekly pay, under the name of Pillar Money.—VII. p. 575.

* The author of “*The Pleasures of Memory*” thus feelingly alludes to this memorial :

Hast thou through Eden's wild wood vales pursued
 Each mountain scene majestically rude ;
 Nor there awhile with lifted eye revered
 That modest stone which pious Pembroke rear'd ;
 Which still records beyond the pencil's power,
 The silent sorrows of a parting hour ;
 Still to the musing pilgrim points the place
 Her sainted spirit most delights to trace ?

ROGERS.

BOUNTIFUL ENGOURAGEMENT TO LEARN THE
LORD'S PRAYER, &c. &c.

Wootton, Surrey.

William Glanville, by will, dated December 31st, 1717, directed that the trustees to be appointed in pursuance of his will, should, amongst other things, on the anniversary of his death, pay to five poor boys of the parish of Wootton, who should not exceed the age of sixteen years, the sum of forty shillings each, upon condition that such five boys should, with their hands laid upon his gravestone, repeat by heart, in a plain and audible voice, the Lord's Prayer, the Apostles' Creed, and Ten Commandments, and should also read the 15th chapter of the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians, and write, in a legible hand, two verses of the said chapter; and, in case a sufficient number of poor boys could not be found in the parish of Wootton qualified to take the benefit of his charity, he empowered the trustees to choose other boys, not exceeding the number aforesaid, nor of more adult years than was before mentioned, out of the several parishes of Westcot, Abinger, Shere, Ashstead, Epsom, and Cheam.

The annuities of forty shillings have been regularly paid on the 2d of February, supposed to be the anniversary of the testator's death, to five poor boys, upon their compliance with the conditions

mentioned in the testator's will, which have been strictly observed.—XIII. p. 601.

PENITENTIAL CHARITY.

Bridford, Devonshire.

Edward Hall, who died 16th July, 1706, gave, by his will, thirteen shillings per annum, to be paid out of the tenement of Thorne, in Bridford, viz. ten shillings to the rector or curate of Bridford, for preaching a penitential sermon in the church of that parish, on Thursday in the week before Easter in every year, as a preparation for the sacrament; two shillings to be bestowed in bread, at the discretion of the minister and churchwardens, to eight poor people who should be then present in the church; and one shilling to the parish clerk for collecting the money, paying the minister, and bringing the bread to the church.

He also gave three shillings and fourpence per annum, to be paid out of Thorne aforesaid, to the minister and churchwardens of Bridford, to be by them bestowed yearly at Easter, to buy butts or other conveniences for the people to kneel upon at their prayers in church.

This charity is continued as required by the donor, except that the sermon is preached on Good Friday instead of the Thursday preceding.—IX. p. 169.

THE DONATION OF A PERSON UNKNOWN, FOR ESTABLISHING PRAYERS ON SUNDAY EVENING.—MATT. VI. 3, 4.

St. Michael's, Gloucester.

By indenture, dated 28th July, 1764, between William Rogers, of Gloucester, apothecary, of the one part; and William Lord Bishop of Gloucester, the Rev. Josiah Tucker, D. D. Dean of Gloucester, and the Rev. Richard Rogers, of the said city, clerk, of the other part;—reciting, that a gentlewoman, who desired that her name might be concealed, had paid to the said William Rogers £281, to be placed out at interest upon government or other security, at the discretion of the said Bishop and his successors, the Dean of Gloucester for the time being, and the said William Rogers and Richard Rogers, and that the interest thereof should be applied for the purposes thereafter mentioned; and that the said William Rogers, with the approbation of the Bishop and Dean and Richard Rogers, had invested the said sum in the purchase of £300 in the Four per Cent. Annuities, in his own name;—it was declared that the dividends and interest should be paid and applied as follows, viz. £8 to the rector or minister of the parish of St. Michael, on condition that, by himself or curate, prayers should be read and divine service performed in the said parish church, at six o'clock in the evening of every Sun-

day throughout the year; twenty shillings to the clerk of the said parish for his attendance on such service; ten shillings to the sexton; and two pounds ten shillings, the residue of the interest, to be laid out in the purchase of candles and lights to be made use of at such service during the winter; but if the minister of St. Michael's parish should, for four Sundays together, neglect to read prayers and perform divine service in the said parish church, at the hour and manner therein mentioned, the Bishop, Dean, and their successors, jointly with the said William and Richard Rogers, or the survivor of them, might appoint some other parish church in the said city for the purpose aforesaid, and pay the said interest to the minister, clerk, and sexton of the parish church so to be nominated by them. The stock has since been converted into £360. 7*s.* Three per Cent. Consols, producing £10. 16*s.* 2*d.* a-year, which is thus appropriated:—

	<i>£.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
To the rector . . .	7	2	8
To the clerk . . .	1	0	0
To the sexton . . .	0	10	0
For candles . . .	2	3	6
	£10 16 2		
	£10 16 2		

UNKINDNESS, IGNORANCE, INJUSTICE, AND IDOLATRY REPROVED.—GOD TO BE PRAISED.

Huntley, Gloucestershire.

Samuel Hawkins,* by will, dated 8th November, 1804, gave £200, the interest thereof should be paid by trustees as follows :—

To the rector, vicar, or curate, £2. 2s. provided one of them should preach a sermon, the text being the sixth chapter of Micah, in the parish church of Huntley, of a morning annually on New Year's Day for ever; and pay to the clerk of the said parish church (provided the hundredth Psalm of the old version be then sung) 10s. 6d.; and if any set of singers should be assembled in the said church on that day, to pay to them £1. 1s. for singing; and to the sexton of the said parish 10s. 6d.; provided such respective persons did respectively perform their duty, but not otherwise; £1. 1s. to be laid out in sixpenny loaves, and given to the poor who should attend divine service on that day; and the remainder of such interest to be given to James Belson, and after his decease to any of his kindred; and, failing therein, for want of such kindred, then to two poor housekeepers of Huntley, at the discretion of the trustees; such trustees to be the rector or vicar and the churchwardens of the parish for the time being. All which trusts are reported as being fulfilled annually, in accordance with the donor's will.—XVIII. p. 324.

* Vide p. 240, for a similar bequest by the same person.

GRATITUDE FOR PRESERVATION IN IMMINENT
DANGER.*Llan Gybi, Caernarvonshire.*

Charles Jones, Esq. of Lincoln's Inn, by will, dated 17th January, 1640, directed that an hospital should be built near Pullhelly for 12 poor men, and that his father first, his uncle next, and so their heirs, should fairly and justly manage and govern such hospital, which he had long resolved, and with the desire of his deceased wife, who was with his father, and their mother, his brother Griffith, his sister, his wife, himself, and other servants, mercifully preserved, and brought to land in Pullhelly, from imminent and present danger of the seas by God's unspeakable love and favour; and whereas likewise he in his younger years was miraculously, by God's own hand, drawn and led from the house in Port thyn Llayn, that was instantly cast and thrown down by the moultringe of an hill near thereunto, and therein nine persons and Christians were killed by reason thereof; himself, a child of three or four years of age at the most, having newly entered the house, and in a moment returned, not thirty yards from the house, but it fell all to dust and rubbish; for these and many other of God's great mercies and loving kindness unto him, he and his deceased wife had determined of this poor hospital; for the maintenance of which hospital to

be erected, he devised for ever certain lands, of £50 per annum, and ordained his brother Robert Jones his executor.

It appears by a Latin inscription in front of the almshouses, that the benevolent intentions of the founder were entirely frustrated during the troubles of the civil war, and that the present edifice was erected by his heir William Price, Esq. of Rhiwlas, in the year 1760.—XXVIII. p. 516.

GRATITUDE FOR DIVINE PROTECTION.

Eton, Buckinghamshire.

Joseph Pote, by will, 12th November, 1781, gave £50 to be put to interest, and the profit to be distributed by equal portions in bread twice a year, viz. on the first Sunday after the 29th March and the 7th November yearly (or on those days if they should be on a Sunday), a quartern loaf to each poor parishioner who should attend divine service, if not disabled therefrom by distress, age, or other incident, the same to be distributed by the bridgemasters for the time being, or by the two senior feoffees, or one of them. And he directed that on each of those days the Hundredth Psalm, with the Gloria Patri, should be sung by the congregation and poor attending, as a thankful acknowledgment of peculiar instances

of Divine protection at those periods and other parts of his life.—XXV. p. 82.

CHARITY FOR THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF JUSTICE,
MERCY, AND GOODNESS.

Newnham, Gloucestershire.

Samuel Hawkins, who died 29th December, 1805, by his will, gave to his executors therein named the sum of £200 in trust, to invest the same in the names of the rector or vicar and churchwardens of the parish of Newnham, and their successors, in Government good securities, and directed that the trustees should, out of the interest thereof, pay to the rector, or vicar, or curate of the said parish £2. 2s. provided one of them should preach in the parish church a sermon, taking for his text the sixth chapter of Micah, 8th verse, "He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" on the morning of every New Year's Day, and to pay the clerk of the said parish, provided the hundredth Psalm were then sung, old version, 10s. 6d.; and if any set of singers should be assembled in the church on that day, to pay them £1. 1s. for singing; and the sexton of the said parish 10s. 6d., provided such persons should respectively perform their duty on

that day, and not otherwise ; and that they should lay out £1. 1s. in buying of six-penny loaves to be distributed to such poor persons as should attend divine service there on that day. And he directed that his trustees should dispose of the remainder of the interest or dividends for the use and benefit of such person or persons who had lived servants with Elizabeth Wood, Elizabeth Hawkins, Sarah Hawkins, and Sarah Hopley, formerly inhabitants of the said parish, and their descendants ; and for want of such claimants to such other poor persons of the said parish, on every New Year's Day for ever, as the trustees for the time being should, in their discretion, think proper.

The £200 was laid out in the purchase of £281. 16s. stock, Three per Cents Reduced, producing £7. 12s. 2d. per annum, which is applied according to the donor's will.—XIX. p. 107.

FARTHING CHARITY.—PEACE AND GOOD WILL
PROMOTED.

Kidderminster, Worcestershire.

In an old book, containing extracts of wills, &c. relating to charities in this town, it is stated that one Whiting gave ten farthing loaves, called Whiting's Alms, to ten poor folks, by the High Bailiff, weekly for ever ; and in the first page of

a book containing the accounts of Brecknell's Charity, is the following entry :

“ Tradition informs us that a maiden woman left to the inhabitants of the Church Street, in Kidderminster, the sum of 40s. to be put out at interest, and that the person in whose hands the said sum was entrusted, should engage to provide as many farthing loaves as the interest would pay for, in order to give one to every child that was either born or lived in Church Street ; and should also engage to invite to his house, upon Midsummer Eve, every male inhabitant of the said Street, to see to the faithful distribution of the said loaves.”

This sum it is said was lost many years ago, by being lent to a person inhabiting a house up an entry in Church Street ; but that the original sum was again made up by some well-disposed people ; and it was then agreed, that no person who did not inhabit a house to the front of the said Street, should ever have the money, nor any person but such as the majority of the inhabitants assembled should approve of, and who should provide two sureties for the repayment with interest ; and it was further stated, that it appeared to be the principal intention of the donor, that the male inhabitants of the said street should be assembled once a-year, in order to maintain a friendly intercourse amongst them

and particularly to inquire if any differences subsisted between them, and if so, to use their friendly offices to reconcile and compose them; and that, accordingly, this friendly meeting on Midsummer Eve in every year, had subsisted beyond the memory of any man, to the time of making the entry, which is dated 23d June 1778.

John Brecknell, living in the Church Street, Kidderminster, by his will, dated 4th December, 1776, reciting that there had for time immemorial existed in the Church Street, a society for the promotion of friendly intercourse among the inhabitants of Church Street, bequeathed £150 in trust, to provide out of the interest thereof, and give to every child or unmarried person born in or an inhabitant of the Church Street, one twopenny plum-cake, upon the eve of every Midsummer Day; and, further, to provide pipes and tobacco and ale, &c. for the entertainment of the male inhabitants, which should then assemble; and he directed that the remaining part of the interest arising from the above £150 should be given to such poor persons as the company then assembled, or the majority of them, should think the fittest objects; and he directed that no more than five shillings, nor less than two shillings, should be given to any one, and that preference should be always given to such poor persons as should be inhabitants of the said street, but never

to be given to any one person who should be present at that meeting.

Trustees have from time to time been appointed, and the dividend being £10. 8s. is disposed of on Midsummer Eve yearly, when a meeting takes place in the house of some person in Church Street who is willing to receive his neighbours. The house is open to all the inhabitants of the street. At this time the twopenny cakes are given away to all the persons born or living in the street, the cost of which is from £3 to £4. Pipes, ale, and tobacco are also supplied, which generally cost between £1 and £2; and the remainder is given away to poor persons living in the Church Street, and the entries leading from it, in sums generally of two shillings to each person.

The sum of 40s. before mentioned is handed over every year to some inhabitant of the street, who pays two shillings at the time of the Midsummer Eve meeting as the interest; and this forms part of the distribution, farthing loaves being always made for the purpose, and given away with the twopenny cakes.—XXV. p. 538, 540.

PEACE AND GOOD WILL PROMOTED.

Market Lavington, Wilts.

Dr. Thomas Tanner, late Bishop of St. Asaph, by will, dated 22d November, 1733, gave to the

Rev. John Sainwell and five others, all of Market Lavington, his native place, and to the vicar or his resident curate there for the time being, the sum of £200, with interest, and upon trust, that they should purchase therewith some rent-charge or estate in land, the rents of which should be applied every year in the manner and form following: first, to the vicar or his curate, for a sermon to be preached in the afternoon of the feast day of the Conversion of St. Paul, in the parish church of Lavington aforesaid, on *repentance, faith, obedience, good works, humility, meekness, sobriety, contempt of the world, resignation to Providence, God's mercy to mankind, men's duty in showing mercy to others*, or some other practical subject, 13s. 4d.; to the clerk and sexton between them, for attending and ringing the bell, 3s.; to the ringers, for two short peals upon the six bells, one at break of day, and the other after sermon, in the afternoon, 6s.; 20s. to be spent at a friendly meeting of his trustees therein named, and such of the better sort of the parishioners as they should think fit to invite in the evening of St. Paul's Day, to promote peace and good neighbourhood, and preserve some little regard to the memory of his honoured parents; 20s. to be yearly disposed of, towards the teaching of some poor children to write and read, whose friends were not able to pay for their schooling; 20s. to

buy four Bibles with Common Prayer, to be given also yearly on St. Paul's Day, to such four poor persons in the said parish, as in the opinion of the vicar, or his curate, were most likely to make the best use of the same, and were least able to buy such ; and the remainder of the clear produce of the said legacy to be given away yearly, after prayers and sermon, on the said St. Paul's Day, in the said church, among so many poor people of the said parish, to be nominated by the vicar, or, in his absence, his curate, as it would reach to at twelve pence each.

In 1742, the £200 was laid out in the purchase of a small estate at Patney, Wilts, which in 1834 was let at £8 per annum, subject to a payment of 2s. 6d. yearly to the chief lord of the fee. The residue of the rent is applied according to the directions contained in Bp. Tanner's will. — XXVIII. p. 383.

BEQUEST TO PROMOTE BROTHERLY LOVE, PEACE,
AND GOOD WILL.

London, St. Clement's Eastcheap.

Robert Halliday, by his will, dated 6th May, 1491, gave estates in the parish of St. Leonard, Eastcheap, the rents to be applied to various purposes, and, amongst others, 5s. to the church-

wardens yearly, either to make an entertainment among such persons of the said parish of St. Clement, who should be at variance with each other, in the week preceding Easter, to induce such persons to better neighbourhood, and to beget brotherly love amongst them; or if none should be found in the said parish, then to make an entertainment with the said 5s. at the tavern amongst the honest parishioners of the said parish on the day of our Lord's Supper, commonly called Shere Thursday, that they might pray more fervently for the souls of certain persons named in his will.—XXIII. p. 202.

CHARITY FOR GLORIFYING GOD.

Newnham, Gloucestershire.

In the last will of James Jocham, of Bristol, dated 21st December, 1764, the following bequest appears :

“ I give to my said son James Jocham, the interest of £1000, which is now out on the bridge security, for his life, he paying yearly thereout to the ministers, clerks, and sextons of the parishes of St. Augustine, in the said city of Bristol, and Newnham aforesaid, the sum of three guineas, (that is to say,) one guinea to the minister of each parish, and half a guinea to the clerks and sextons

of each parish, to be divided amongst them equally, for preaching a sermon on the 14th of May yearly for ever, the text to be taken out of the Common Prayer Book, on these words, "*O all ye works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord, praise Him, and magnify Him for ever.*" Item, I give to the parish of Newnham aforesaid, after the decease of my said son James, the interest of the said sum of £1000, towards clothing fifteen poor boys of the said parish yearly for ever, and the remainder (if any) to poor lying-in women of the same parish, not receiving alms, as the minister, churchwardens, and gentlemen of the same parish shall think the greatest objects of charity; and after the said sum of £1000 shall be paid in from the Bridge, I desire my executors and trustees to lay it out in the purchase of some lands, or else to put it out on Government or other good security, for the uses above mentioned."

The sum of £1000 was laid out in the purchase of £1,126. 17s. 10d. South Sea Annuities, producing an annual dividend of £33. 16s.

It appears that the dividends have been applied annually, according to the donor's wish, and the account of the distribution regularly kept.—XIX. p. 106.

CHARITY OF THANKFULNESS.

St. Giles's, Oxford.

William Handy, by will, dated 10th March, 1622, bequeathed to the parish of St. Giles £40, upon conditions, that upon the 10th day of March for ever, in the morning, about five or six o'clock, they should ring one peal with all the bells, and about eight or nine o'clock should go to service, and read all the service, with the Litany and the Communion, as it is commanded to be read in the Cathedral Church, and after that to have a sermon, and in it to give God thanks for his great blessings in delivering and bringing the giver from Papistry and Idolatry to the light and truth of His blessed Gospel; and he desired that the preacher might have 10s. for his sermon, and the minister 5s. for reading service, and the poor to have given them in bread or money 10s.

This sum, with other monies, was laid out in 1633, in purchasing a tenement, garden, and one acre of pasture-ground, situate in Corn Street, Witney, to the uses of the donor's will. Of the rent fifteen shillings a-year is paid to the minister for reading prayers and preaching a sermon on the 10th of March; five shillings to the clerk; five shillings to the ringers; and fifteen shillings is distributed at the church, with other money, in small sums to the poor.

The same mode of distribution has prevailed for a great number of years.—VI. p. 453.

There was a similar gift by the same donor to the parish of St. Mary Magdalen, Oxford; but the Commissioners report, that since 1800 nothing has been paid in respect of this Charity; and the name of William Handy has been erased from the Table of Benefactions!!—VI. p. 434.

ENCOURAGEMENT TO ATTEND DIVINE SERVICE, AND
LIVE IN THE FEAR OF GOD.

St. James's, Bristol.

Thomas Walker, of this parish, by his will, dated 25th April, 1666, ordered as follows:

“Item, I give and bequeath to that poor parish of St. James the sum of £200, to purchase for ever the sum of £10. 8s. a year for eight poor housekeepers, that are known to live in the fear of God, and to come unto the church every Lord's Day, a sixpenny loaf of bread every Sabbath Day, after morning prayer, unto these eight poor housekeepers for ever; but, for God's sake, let them be no drunkards nor common swearers; no, nor that do beg in the streets from door to door; but let them be quiet people, that do desire to live in the fear of God. Pray let their bread be wheaten bread, and weight as it ought to be.”

The sum of £200 not being sufficient to pur-

chase an annuity of £10. 8s. clear of taxes, the trustees (under the will) added £8, and purchased a rent-charge of £10. 8s. per annum, issuing out of lands called the Six Closes or Chequer Ground, in the parish of St. James. And care is taken (it is said) to appoint persons of good character to participate of the gift.—IX. p. 412.

BEQUEST TO INCULCATE A KNOWLEDGE OF GOD
AND OUR DUTIES TO MAN.

Prescot, Lancashire.

Amongst the papers relating to the Charities of this place, there is an extract from the will of John Wyke (but without date), whereby he gave to his executors £100, to be by them paid to the Trustees of the Prescot Charities, to place such sum out on such securities as they and the Jury of Prescot Court should think proper, the interest to be applied at the discretion and appointment of the said Trustees and Jury, with the vicar and churchwardens of the same parish for the time being, in causing poor children, living in any part of the parish of Prescot, *to be instructed in the English tongue, writing, arithmetic, mathematics, and particularly mechanics, and also in purchasing of godly books demonstrating the infinite perfections of the one only supreme God, and teaching the duties we naturally owe to Him as such, and to*

each other as equally the work of His hands ;* which books he desired to be fixed in the parish church of Prescot for public use, or be distributed amongst poor families in the said parish, and in purchasing of bread to be distributed in the said church to the poor attending divine worship there.

The Commissioners were informed that this legacy was received on 14th February, 1793, and laid out upon a new weighing machine upon the premises called the Rose and Crown, and that for several years subsequently to 1795, £4. 10s. per annum was paid to the schoolmaster of the Grammar School in Prescot, as the interest of this legacy ; and four boys were appointed to be taught free, on account thereof ; and the same interest is now considered as forming part of the salary paid to the master out of the general account of the Charities of the place, more particularly referred to and detailed in the Commissioners' Report.—XXI. p. 222.

* Father of Light and Life ! thou Good Supreme !
O teach me what is good ! teach me Thyself !
Save me from folly, vanity, and vice,
From every low pursuit ! and feed my soul
With knowledge, conscious peace, and virtue pure ;
Sacred, substantial, never-fading bliss !

THOMSON.

WE close this account of Remarkable Charities with the benefaction of one whose name ranks high amongst the professors of that noble art by means of which the knowledge of the good deeds of our forefathers are communicated to posterity.

A CHARITY FOR THE BENEFIT OF PRINTERS.

London.

William Bowyer, esquire, by his will, dated 30th July, 1777, gave to the Company of Stationers, London, such a sum of money as would purchase £2000 three per cent. reduced annuities, upon trust, to pay the dividends equally, amongst three printers, compositors or pressmen, to be elected, from time to time, by the Master, Wardens, and Assistants of the said Company, and who at the time of such election should be 63 years old or upwards, for their respective lives, to be paid half yearly, hoping that such as should be most deserving would be preferred; and after reciting that he had, by his will, given to his son the sum of £3000 four per cent. consolidated annuities, in case he married with the consent of his (the testator's) executors, he thereby gave and bequeathed the dividends and interest of that sum till such marriage should take place, to the said Company of Stationers, to be divided equally between six other printers, compositors or pressmen as afore-

said, in manner as aforesaid ; and if his son should die unmarried, or married without such consent as aforesaid, then he gave and bequeathed the said capital sum of £3000 to the said Company of Stationers, the dividends and yearly produce thereof to be divided, for ever, amongst six other such old printers, compositors or pressmen, for their respective lives, to be qualified, chosen, and paid, in manner as aforesaid.

The testator then proceeds in the following words :

“ It has long been to me matter of concern, that such numbers are put apprentices as compositors without any share of school learning, who ought to have the greatest. In hopes of remedying this, I give and bequeath to the said Company of Stationers, such a sum of money as will purchase £1000 three per Cent. Reduced Bank Annuities, for the use of one journeyman compositor, such as shall hereafter be described ; with this special trust, that the Master, Wardens, and Assistants, shall pay the dividends and produce thereof, half yearly, to such compositor. The said Master, Wardens, and Assistants of the said Company, shall nominate for this purpose a Compositor who is a man of good life and conversation, who shall usually frequent some place of public worship every Sunday, unless prevented by sickness, and shall not have worked on a newspaper or maga-

zine for four years at least before such nomination, nor shall ever afterwards whilst he holds this annuity, which may be for life if he continues a journeyman.

“ He shall be able to read and construe Latin, and at least to read Greek fluently, with accents; of which he shall bring a testimonial from the Rector of Saint Martin’s Ludgate for the time being. I could wish that he shall have been brought up piously and virtuously, if it be possible at Merchant Taylors’, or some other public school, from seven years of age till he is full seventeen, and then to serve seven years faithfully as a compositor, and work seven years more as a journeyman, as I would not have this annuity bestowed on any one under 31 years of age. If after he is chosen he should behave ill, let him be turned out, and another chosen in his stead. And whereas it may be many years before a compositor may be found that shall exactly answer the above description, and it may at some times happen that such a one cannot be found, I would have the dividends in the mean time applied to such person as the Master, Wardens, and Assistants, shall think approaches nearest to what I have described.”

And he gave to the Company, in case they should think proper to accept the trust, £250.

The several sums above mentioned were trans-

ferred to the Company by Mr. Bowyer's executors. The 4 per cent. consols have since been reduced to 3 per cent., and there is now the sum of £6000 3 per cent. reduced annuities standing in the name of the Company, applicable to these charities.

The dividends amount to £180 a-year, £60 whereof is disposed of in half-yearly pensions to three printers, compositors or pressmen, £20 per annum to each.

The sum of £90 is disposed of in like manner to six other persons of the same description, £15 per annum to each; and £30 is paid to a pensioner appointed under the last clause of the testator's will. These persons are all elected by the Court of Assistants, to whom petitions are presented, stating the qualifications of the candidates, according to the terms prescribed, and the circumstances that are thought to render them fit objects of the charity. Mr. Henry Leslie, the pensioner receiving £30 yearly, was appointed in 1839, when, as appears by an entry in the Court-book, he and all the candidates produced a certificate from the rector of St. Martin, Ludgate, as required by the will.—XXII. p. 83.

The example set by Mr. Bowyer has been followed by several other liberal benefactors for the benefit of poor Printers.

William Strahan, esq. left by will, in 1784, £1000.

Andrew Strahan, esq. gave in his lifetime, in 1815, £1225, 4 per cent. annuities; and in 1818, gave a second benefaction of £1000 4 per cent.

John Nichols, esq. gave in his lifetime in 1817, £500 4 per cent. annuities.

Luke Hansard, esq. in July 1818, gave £1000 4 per cents.; and in September 1818, gave a second benefaction of £1500 3 per cents.

Beale Blackwell, esq. gave by will in 1817, £100 a-year.

Charles Whittingham, esq. gave by will in 1840, £2000 3 per cent. Consols.

The interest of all these several sums are distributed to poor Printers by the Court of Assistants of the Company of Stationers.



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